

Jeremiah 34



See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. Jer 1:10

Pray that God's word will do its uprooting and planting work in your life.

Read Leviticus 25:1–17 and Deuteronomy 15:7–18

1. Imagine that you are a real estate agent or a travel consultant convincing people to go and live among the Israelites. What aspects of life in Israel could you use as selling points?

Read Jeremiah 34:8–22

2. What do you find disappointing in this story?

3. Imagine that you are one of the slaves in this episode. Years later, you explain to your children what happened. How would you tell the story?

4. Imagine that you are one of the slave owners in this story. Explain why your actions were reasonable.

Read Philemon

5. Imagine that you are Onesimus. What will you say when you see Philemon for the first time since you ran away?

6. Imagine that you are Philemon. What will you say to Onesimus when he returns to you?

Reflect

7. What have you discovered about God and his values from the above?

8. How might you live out these values in a time of pandemic and recession?

9. How could the church be a witness to God's character and values at this time?