



# **Old Testament Survey**

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# Group Exercises: Leader Guide

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Welcome to Our Daily Bread University's (ODBU) Old Testament survey course. In this course, ODBU provides the content of the Old Testament survey through online lectures and related study materials. On the days when you meet with the students who are participating in the course, you, as the students' leader, will encourage them to interact meaningfully with the content they have already taken in. The purpose of this guide is to provide you with some ideas for activities and exercises that will challenge the students to engage and interact with the teaching.

These exercises and activities have been provided to us by Dr. Sid Buzzell, former Chairman of the Theology Department at Colorado Christian University. He used the ODBU courses in his teaching of both Old and New Testament survey to hundreds of college students each year. The suggestions he makes in this guide have already been tried in classrooms and proven to be successful teaching/learning tools. You now can benefit from his creative thinking and from his experience.

In addition to using Dr. Buzzell's materials, we want to encourage you to think of some exercises that will be unique to your personality and teaching style. Here are some general ideas of types of activities you might develop:

- 1. Provide additional information on the Bible book or topic you are discussing with your students. As you view the ODBU lessons the students are completing, you may think of additional information that you want to cover in your meetings using a short discussion. Feel free to add material as you desire, but keep in mind that you should allow time for students to interact with each other and, with your oversight and involvement, to engage with and apply the information they are learning.**
- 2. Exegetical Exercises. The importance of teaching students to exegete the biblical text cannot be overstated. While there is an enormous amount of material to be covered in a survey course, we cannot neglect Bible study skills. Periodically modeling the exegesis of a Bible passage in your meetings will contribute to their ability to read the Bible well.**
- 3. Discussion. Some topics lend themselves to open discussion on a particular topic led by the teacher. Often these discussions can be initiated by questions the students may have as they study the biblical text.**
- 4. Small-group discussion. You might break the group of students into smaller learning teams to discuss and/or debate on one of the topics or to share with one another their own exegesis and application of a passage or question.**
- 5. Case studies/problem-solving groups. You might give students a problem to solve or an example (fictional or actual) that will encourage discussion and application of the concepts taught in the lesson.**

Be creative and innovative. This kind of teaching is an opportunity to try new ideas, which will encourage students to be actively involved in learning. By the time they meet with the group, you know they have taken in the course material and have tested their level of understanding by taking a quiz. In the group meetings, the real assimilation of the material begins, and there is almost no limit on ways in which that engagement with the text can occur. So enjoy this course as you use the activities in this guide and as you develop your own style of interacting with students that will encourage their lifelong study of the Bible.

# OT225 Jeremiah - Ezekiel:

## Human Failure & Divine Success - A Study in Contrast

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### 225.1 Jeremiah

Read Jeremiah 38:1-13.

This amazing story reveals the iron resolve Jeremiah had about his mission and ministry. He was convinced that God had called him and even this insulting, demeaning treatment didn't make him deny who he was or what he was called by God to do. Acts 1 teaches us that we are all called to be Christ's witnesses. Matthew 28 teaches us that all Christians are commissioned to make disciples. We don't have to have an individual "call" like Jeremiah or Isaiah had. Jeremiah felt compelled to be God's witness no matter what it cost him.

1. Take a few moments to consider your own calling as a witness. Describe how you have, or how you can, turn your sphere of influence into a place of ministry. How can you be God's voice to people you relate with?
2. We will undoubtedly never face the kind of opposition Jeremiah faced, but it's important for each of us to consider what it would take to stop us from being God's prophet to our generation. Describe the potential opposition you face, or believe you would face in your setting if you were to boldly, but tactfully, be God's Jeremiah.
3. Many Christians never start, or quickly stop being a witness because they fear some sort of opposition. Be prepared to discuss these fears with a few fellow students. What are the barriers to us being effective witnesses for Christ and how can we most effectively deal with them?

### Jeremiah's Call and Commission – Jeremiah 1:1–10

List at least 7 facts about Jeremiah's call to ministry recorded in the text below.

At least TWO of the 7 facts must come from each of the three sections.

*1 The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were...in the land of Benjamin, 2 to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. 3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the exile of Jerusalem in the fifth month.*

*4 Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."*

*6 Then I said, "Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, because I am a youth." 7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' because everywhere I send you, you shall go, and all that I command you, you shall speak. 8 "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD. 9 Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. 10 "See, I have appointed you this day...."*

Verses 1-3
Verses 4-5
Verses 6-10

Now make at least ONE overall observation about Jeremiah's call to ministry.

## 225.2 Ezekiel

Read Ezekiel 4.

God called Ezekiel to perform some bizarre acts to get his listeners' attention. Even though they had already been taken into exile in Babylon, they still refused to hear God's warnings of judgment. They continued in their headlong drive toward destruction.

1. In your efforts to help people "hear" God, have you considered going beyond the normal conversations to help people hear God's message? We may never go to some of the extremes Ezekiel was called to, but there is a lesson here. List some creative ways you could enhance your witness for Christ. Think of a specific person who doesn't know Jesus as savior. Or a specific friend or family member who you would like to help stop or start a behavior. For each of these, write down one specific creative way you could draw their attention to God's message to them.
2. Consider your own ways. Is there something that God needs to deal with in your life? How sensitive are you to God's messages?