

**THE STORY CHAPTER 17**  
**THE KINGDOM'S FALL: HOW A DEAD-END CAN**  
**BECOME A NEW BEGINNING**

1. As a child growing up in the house, how would you describe yourself as it relates to discipline. Were you the good kid who rarely got in trouble or the one most in “time out?” Were you good at responding well to discipline and correction?
2. When God called Jeremiah to serve him (Jeremiah 1:5), he assured him that his plan had been in place since Jeremiah was in his mother’s womb. In the New Testament, we learn that God has a plan for each of us, for how He plans to use our life as we follow Him. Can you relate to how Jeremiah was reluctant to believe and relate to the call? How has God gifted and called you to serve him and how are you following this call? How can your group members pray for you and cheer you on, as you seek to follow God with greater faithfulness and passion?

*Ephesians 2:10*

*“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

3. We, also see from Jeremiah’s story that God’s view of success is different than the world’s. Whereas, the world judges by results, God measures success based on our faithfulness to obey God in his call, faithfully and honorably trusting in God’s approval. Why do you think it is important to focus on faithfulness not successfulness? Is there an area where you are challenged to be faithful in spite of the results you are now seeing?
4. How can God’s discipline of his children be one of the best gifts that he can give us? How has God disciplined you on your journey of faith and how did it help you grow? Can you give an example of how, when we embrace God’s discipline, we discover his grace and compassion following right behind it? Where is an area of your life that you are experiencing some disciplinary consequences and are having to make a choice between hardening your heart or humbling your heart? What is in your character or attitude that God might be wanting to prune, so that you can produce more fruit for God in the future?
4. In Ezekiel 36, God shows the prophet that, as they were willing to accept God’s discipline and repent, God would breathe on dry bones? What are some examples of dry bones (“dead dreams...”) that you might like the group to pray about?