



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### Complain < Confess < Sing July 4-6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### Jeremiah 20:7-13

<sup>7</sup> *You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived;  
you overpowered me, and prevailed.  
I am ridiculed all day long;  
everyone mocks me.*

<sup>8</sup> *Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction.  
So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day  
long.*

<sup>9</sup> *But if I say,  
"I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,"  
his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones.  
I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.*

<sup>10</sup> *I hear many whispering,  
"Terror on every side! Denounce him! Let's denounce him!"  
All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying,  
"Perhaps he will be deceived;  
then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him."*

<sup>11</sup> *But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior;  
So my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.  
They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;  
their dishonor will never be forgotten.*

<sup>12</sup> *LORD Almighty,  
you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind,  
let me see your vengeance on them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.*

<sup>13</sup> *Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD!  
He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.*

1. If you had to give this section a title, what would you call it?
2. Read Jeremiah 20:1-6. What is Jeremiah complaining about?
3. Scan v. 7-10. Which one of Jeremiah's complaints have you thought before?
4. In what ways have you suffered for doing what God wants?
5. Agree/Disagree. It's a sin to complain to God.
6. Jeremiah's tone switches in verse 11. Explain why those words would be encouraging for Jeremiah.
7. Some Bibles call this section "Jeremiah's Confession," which means, "Jeremiah uncovers his heart." What was in Jeremiah's heart? (Try to name both positive and negative things.)
8. What in your heart is similar to Jeremiah's (both positive and negative)?
9. One mental pathway through suffering is from complaining to confessing to singing. What might move a person from complaining to confessing? What might move a person from confessing to rejoicing?
10. What is one thing you'll remember from this study?