

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, August 30, 2026 (Pentecost 14)

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Discussion Starters

1. Why does Jeremiah ask God to “avenge” his persecutors? Is that a proper request to make?
2. How does Jeremiah justify himself before God? What has he done (in his opinion) to merit God's favorable response? What reward was Jeremiah expecting in return for his service to God?
3. What does God expect Jeremiah to do next? How does this expectation compare with God's expectation for us today?
4. What is the purpose of repentance, according to this passage?
5. What promises does God make to Jeremiah?
6. Do you think serving the Lord was a joy for Jeremiah? Why or why not? Should it be a joy for us?

Romans 12:9-21

Discussion Starters

1. How do these verses illustrate the teaching of verses 1-2? In what way do verses 9-21 require “a living sacrifice?”
2. How do you define the word “sincere?” In what way(s) does it accurately describe genuine love?
3. In a world where strong opinions exist, how is it possible to “live at peace” with everyone? Is it right to simply ignore contentious topics of conversation?
4. What is the meaning behind verses 19-21? How do we “heap burning coals” on the heads of our enemies?
5. Of all the admonitions in these verses, which ones are the most difficult for you to implement in your own life?

Matthew 16:21-28

Discussion Starters

1. Put this reading in its context. What happens immediately preceding it and following it? How do those events impact your understanding of this text?
2. The tone of Jesus' teaching changes in this text. Why does He become more direct with His disciples about what is to come? What do they need to understand?
3. What does it mean to “take up your cross daily?” What specifically does that mean for you?
4. What might people exchange for their souls? Where is this a challenge for you?
5. How does (should) this passage influence the way you set priorities for your life?
6. Do you believe Jesus will come back in your lifetime? What reason(s) do you have for that belief?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?