



# Living In God's Plan

*Lessons from the book of Jeremiah*



## Why do I sometimes hesitate to respond to God's call?

Read Jeremiah 1

Listen to the Message 'Why do I sometimes hesitate to respond to God's call?' (1<sup>st</sup> October 2023) at [www.elim.family/media](http://www.elim.family/media)

In this message, Ps Jim focuses on Jeremiah as an example of moving from the margins, both in our faith and our church engagement. Jeremiah, a well-known prophet, faced doubts and fears when God called him from a position of uncertainty. He was hesitant due to his youth and the challenging nature of the prophetic role.

Jeremiah lived during a tumultuous period in biblical history, where the people of Judah were failing to meet God's standards. Jeremiah's unique perspective as a priest's son from the village of Anathoth gave him an outsider's view of Jerusalem.

The key theme of the message is that, like Jeremiah, many people may feel on the margins in their faith journey or church involvement. They could be newcomers, long-time churchgoers who want to engage more deeply, or individuals who have distanced themselves due to past hurts or other priorities.

The message emphasizes that God has a plan for each person's life, just as He did for Jeremiah. Even though we may hesitate or make excuses when we sense God's calling, we need to trust that God knows our strengths and weaknesses. He equips us for our calling, and we shouldn't let fear or past experiences hold us back.

Jeremiah's example shows us that responding to God's call can be challenging, but the cost is worth the eternal rewards. Moving from the margins to a more centred position in our faith and church engagement requires faith, trust, and courage. This sermon encourages us to identify what's holding us back, trust in God's equipping, and step into your unique calling, living a life worthy of the purpose God has set for you.

### Questions for reflection:

These reflection questions can help you explore your own faith journey and how you might respond to God's call to move from the margins to a more centred and purposeful position in your relationship with Him and your church community.

1. **Where Am I Positioned?** Reflect on your current position in your faith journey and church involvement. Do you feel like you're on the margins, on the edge, or firmly centred in your relationship with God and your church community?
2. **What Barriers Am I Facing?** Consider the barriers or obstacles that may be holding you back from responding to God's call more fully. Are they external circumstances, past hurts, fears, or doubts? Identify these challenges.

3. **What Is God's Unique Calling for Me?** Reflect on the idea that God has a unique plan and purpose for your life, just as He did for Jeremiah. What do you sense God may be calling you to do or become?
4. **What Excuses Am I Making?** Think about any excuses or reasons you might be giving for not responding to God's call. Are they valid concerns or self-imposed limitations? How can you address or overcome these excuses?
5. **Am I Willing to Trust God's Equipping?** Consider whether you are willing to trust that God knows your strengths and weaknesses and will equip you for the journey. Are you ready to step out in faith and respond to His call, even if it involves challenges or risks?

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal saviour and you would like to move from the margins to having a relationship with Him. Please speak to one of the pastors or leadership team, we would love to pray with you. Alternatively, go to [www.elim.family/ihavedecided](http://www.elim.family/ihavedecided) to find out more about giving your life to Jesus.

If you would like to be more involved in church and more from the margins, whether it's getting involved in the:

- Welcome Team
- Audio Visual Team
- Luncheon Club
- Setting up and packing away (various times during the week)
- Communion Preparation
- Finance Team
- Administration
- Children's Work (subject to DBS check)
- Youth Work (subject to DBS check)
- Visiting / Pastoral Care
- Maintenance
- Refreshments Team
- Bereavement Care
- Worship Team
- Social Media

Then please speak to one of the leadership team or staff members or sign up at [www.elim.family/volunteer](http://www.elim.family/volunteer)