

Devotional Guide

August 31–September 5, 2026

Choices Along The Line #6



The Choice to Proclaim

No matter how dark the times, steady faithfulness to God makes an impact.

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

Bible Text(s): Jeremiah 32, 36, 43, and 45

The message explores how hardships and dark times reveal what we are really doing with our lives. Through the stone-cutter story and Baruch's four appearances in Jeremiah 32, 36, 43, and 45, it follows a quiet scribe who helped proclaim God's Word while Jerusalem collapsed. Baruch acted in faith during a siege, persisted when a king burned the scroll, endured accusation and forced exile, and received God's personal word in weariness. The Big Idea is clear: No matter how dark the times, steady faithfulness to God makes an impact. Use these six days to find your place in God's big story.

How to Use This Guide:

Set aside 10-15 minutes daily. Read the Bible, reflect on the thought, answer questions, pray, and take the action step. Commit to this for growth—journal insights and share with a friend for accountability.

Keep this guide close this week. Return to the Big Idea each day: No matter how dark the times, steady faithfulness to God makes an impact.

Day 1: What Are You Doing?

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 45:5

Jeremiah 45:5 (NIV) “Should you then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the Lord, but wherever you go I will let you escape with your life.”

Devotional Thought:

The sermon opened with Sir Christopher Wren walking unrecognized among the stone cutters of St. Paul’s. One man was only cutting a stone. Another was only earning his wage. The third squared his shoulders: “I am helping Sir Christopher Wren build this great cathedral.” Hardship does not drive that man away, because he can see what he is part of.

Baruch could have seen only tasks and a crumbling life in Judah’s last dark years. Instead he helped Jeremiah proclaim God’s Word. What are you doing in this season—going through the motions, making a living, or giving your life to the kingdom God is building? The Big Idea steadies the answer: No matter how dark the times, steady faithfulness to God makes an impact.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. What do the three stone cutters reveal about how people interpret the same work?**
- 2. Where have you felt like you were only “cutting stone” or only “earning a wage”?**
- 3. How does Jeremiah 45:5 challenge the hunt for “great things” for yourself?**
- 4. What emotion rises when you picture your ordinary work as part of God’s cathedral?**
- 5. What is one way you can treat today’s task as service to the Lord?**

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, tell me the truth about what I am doing with my life. Forgive me for living only for tasks or wages. Help me see my place in what You are building. Amen.

Action Step:

Before work or chores today, say: “I am helping Jesus build His kingdom.” Then do the next ordinary task with care.

Day 2: Faith in the Middle of Disaster

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 32:6-15

Jeremiah 32:14-15 (NIV) “This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time. For this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.”

Devotional Thought:

*Jerusalem is under siege. Jeremiah is confined. The field already lies in enemy hands. Buying it looks like the scene the sermon named from *Gone with the Wind*—signing a contract while the city burns. Yet God had made a promise to His people in His land. Baruch’s job was not glamorous. He handled documents.*

Handling those papers was an act of faith. It helped proclaim hope on the eve of judgment: fields will be bought and sold again. Baruch also shows that standing with a hard-pressed leader supports God’s work through that leader. Jeremiah needed someone to do what he could not do from confinement. The Big Idea is already on the ground: No matter how dark the times, steady faithfulness to God makes an impact.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. What details in Jeremiah 32 make the land purchase look unreasonable?**
- 2. When have you been asked to take a faithful step that did not “make sense” yet?**
- 3. How does storing the deed in a clay jar connect to hope in God’s future restoration?**
- 4. Who is a hard-pressed person God may be asking you to stand with?**
- 5. What document, conversation, or small act of faith could declare hope this week?**

Prayer Prompt:

Father, thank You that Your promises outlast sieges. Give me faith to act when the news is dark. Use my supporting role to help proclaim hope. Amen.

Action Step:

Do one concrete act of hope today—write an encouraging note, keep a commitment, or pray Jeremiah 32:15 over a situation that looks finished.

Day 3: Write, Read, Rewrite

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 36:4-8, 21-28

Jeremiah 36:4 (NIV) “So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while Jeremiah dictated all the words the Lord had spoken to him, Baruch wrote them on the scroll.” Jeremiah 36:23, 28 (NIV) “Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe’s knife and threw them into the firepot... “Take another scroll and write on it all the words that were on the first scroll, which Jehoiakim king of Judah burned up.”

Devotional Thought:

Years earlier God told Jeremiah to write the hard word so people might repent. Jeremiah was banned from the temple, so Baruch went where the prophet could not go. He wrote. He read. When the king burned the scroll and ordered their arrest, God hid them—and Baruch wrote it all again.

Faithfulness persists even when the culture rejects God’s Word and messengers. God uses ordinary tasks in powerful ways. We have the book of Jeremiah today because a hunted scribe kept writing. When you communicate God’s Word into someone’s life, the impact can outlast your lifetime. The Big Idea holds: No matter how dark the times, steady faithfulness to God makes an impact.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. What risks did Baruch accept when he read the scroll in the temple?**
- 2. Where have you seen God’s Word dismissed, mocked, or “burned” in our culture?**
- 3. Why does rewriting the burned scroll matter for how we treat the Bible today?**
- 4. What ordinary task might God be using more than you think?**
- 5. Who needs you to put God’s Word in front of them again this week?**

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, when Your Word is rejected, keep me faithful. Hide me when I need hiding. Help me write, read, and speak Your Word again. Amen.

Action Step:

Write out Jeremiah 32:15 or Jeremiah 45:5 by hand and place it where you will see it. Read it aloud once today.

Day 4: Faithfulness Under Accusation

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 43:1-7; John 15:18-20

Jeremiah 43:2-3 (NIV) “Azariah son of Hoshai and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, ‘You are lying! The Lord our God has not sent you to say, ‘You must not go to Egypt to settle there.’ But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians...” John 15:18 (NIV) “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”

Devotional Thought:

After Jerusalem fell, the remnant asked for the Lord’s guidance—then rejected it. They wanted God to rubber-stamp their plan to flee to Egypt. When the word did not match their agenda, they called Jeremiah a liar and blamed Baruch.

God’s servants can face danger, loss, and accusation for remaining faithful. Faithfulness does not guarantee comfort or preferences. True faithfulness continues even when others choose disobedience. It never rests on human circumstances. It rests on the One whose faithfulness led Him to the cross. The Big Idea does not promise ease. It promises impact: No matter how dark the times, steady faithfulness to God makes an impact.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. What does Jeremiah 43 reveal about people who want to “hear from God” only on their terms?**
- 2. When have you felt blamed or isolated for staying faithful?**
- 3. How does Jesus’ warning in John 15 prepare you for costly faithfulness?**
- 4. Where are you tempted to treat God’s Word as a rubber stamp for your agenda?**
- 5. What would continuing in faithfulness look like if others take a different path?**

Prayer Prompt:

Jesus, You were faithful all the way to the cross. When I am accused or misunderstood, keep me near You. I do not ask first for comfort. I ask for courage. Amen.

Action Step:

Pray by name for one person who is paying a price for faithfulness. Send them a short word of courage today.

Day 5: God's Word in Weariness

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 45:1-5; Matthew 16:24-26

Jeremiah 45:3-5 (NIV) "You said, 'Woe to me! The Lord has added sorrow to my pain; I am worn out with groaning and find no rest.' ... "Should you then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the Lord, but wherever you go I will let you escape with your life." Matthew 16:24 (NIV) "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Devotional Thought:

God's personal word to Baruch came as his support for Jeremiah went public. Baruch was weary. His prominent family's world was about to be uprooted. God did not scold the groan. He answered it. God Himself was tearing down what He had built. Loss was real for God first.

Then came the hard mercy: Do not seek great things for yourself. And the promise: wherever you go, I will let you escape with your life. Weariness, heartache, or loss can be the place God offers His fresh word. That word may ask you to give up a dream. It also carries a promise. Jesus later made the same invitation—lose your life and find it. The Big Idea becomes personal: No matter how dark the times, steady faithfulness to God makes an impact.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. What does Baruch's groan in Jeremiah 45:3 tell you about honest prayer?**
- 2. Where do you feel worn out with groaning and find no rest?**
- 3. Why is "Do not seek great things for yourself" good news, not only a rebuke?**
- 4. How does Jesus' call to take up the cross complete God's word to Baruch?**
- 5. What "great thing" might God be asking you to lay down so you can be faithful?**

Prayer Prompt:

Father, I tell You the truth about my weariness. I lower my demand for great things. Protect my life in You and give me a fresh word today. Amen.

Action Step:

Write a two-sentence prayer that tells Jesus the truth about your weariness. Leave it where you will pray it again tonight.

Day 6: Find Your Place in God's Story

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 32:15; Hebrews 12:1-3

Jeremiah 32:15 (NIV) "For this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land." Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV) "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame... Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Devotional Thought:

Review the week: a stone cutter who saw the cathedral, a scribe who held a deed in a siege, a man who rewrote a burned scroll, a servant accused and carried to Egypt, a weary heart that received God's personal word. Baruch never stood in Jeremiah's spotlight. His quiet, costly faithfulness helped proclaim a hard and hope-filled message. God is calling you to find your place in His big story. Tell Jesus the truth about your weariness. Lower your demand for great things. Take the next small step of faithful service. See your life in Jesus as the ultimate prize. Fix your eyes on the One whose faithfulness went to the cross. Then live the Big Idea out loud: No matter how dark the times, steady faithfulness to God makes an impact.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. What key insight are you taking from Baruch's story this week?**
- 2. How has your view of "ordinary" faithfulness changed?**
- 3. Where will you apply the Big Idea in the coming week?**
- 4. Who could you encourage with this hope today?**
- 5. How will you keep from growing weary and losing heart?**

Prayer Prompt:

Loving Father, thank You for Baruch's quiet courage and for Jesus, who endured the cross. Plant me in Your story. Use my steady faithfulness for impact that lasts. Amen.

Action Step:

Memorize Jeremiah 32:15 this week. Share one takeaway from this guide with a friend or family member today.



FBC Falun

23661 Range Line Road
Falun, Wisconsin 54972

Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

Phone: 715-689-2124

FBCFalun.org / FBCFalun.online