

## Small Group Study Guide, Week of April 26, 2026

**Jeremiah 34-35**, "Promises Made, Promises Broken, and Promises Kept," Pastor Tim Cho

**Q:** What can we learn about promises from Israel's history?

**Big Idea:** We are promise breakers who need the saving grace of the true promise keeper.

**Ice Breaker:** Has anyone ever gone back on a promise to you? When? How did you feel about it?

**Background:** Jeremiah 34 and 35 form a historical appendix at the close of the first major division of the book.

**Dig:**

1. In Jeremiah 34:1-7, which cities/towns of Judah are still holding out through a four-year long siege by Nebuchadnezzar? Look at a Bible map to see where each was located. How did they manage to hold out so long? What had God already told Zedekiah about how the siege would end? (Jeremiah 21:1-10) What relief does God offer?
2. In Jeremiah 34:8-22, what promise does King Zedekiah make regarding slavery? (For background, read Leviticus 25:39-46) Why does Zedekiah do this now? How do the slave owners respond? How do the slaves respond? How does God respond?
3. Jeremiah 35 flashes back to the reign of Jehoiakim, nearly 25 years earlier. From 2 Kings 24:1-2, what was the relationship between Judah and Babylon at this time? Why did God tell Jeremiah to offer the Recabites wine? What made the Recabites distinctive from other Israelites? Why had they moved to Jerusalem? Why might they have felt uneasy about living in Jerusalem? What about the Recabites pleases God? What is the object lesson in this for Judah?

**Apply:**

4. How do people take advantage of the poor and marginalized in our own society? What does God expect us as individuals and as a church to do about it? How might you start this week?
5. What lessons should we at GraceFirst take away from the distinctive lifestyle of the Recabites? What is one thing that distinguishes you regarding living an alternative lifestyle from your colleagues and neighbors? What do you sense God calling you to do about that?

Adapted from Serendipity Bible (1988), This Morning with God (1978), Search the Scriptures (1978)