



The Next Generation: “God Empowers His Children”

June 14, 2026 – Amber McCabe, Devan Colby, Nacho Barrera

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **What An Awesome God** (*Phil Wickham*)
- **The Lord Almighty** (*Paul McClure*)
- **O Praise the Name** (*Hillsong*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Psalm 139
- Jeremiah 1:5
- Jeremiah 1:7-8
- Ephesians 2:10

OPENING PRAYER

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

What is one thing you felt called to do as a child or young person? Did you pursue it? Why or why not?

SERMON OVERVIEW

This message explored God's calling on Jeremiah's life and how the same truths apply to us today—especially the next generation. We learned that God knows us, loves us, calls us with purpose, and empowers us to fulfill what He has designed us to do.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. God Calls with Purpose

- God's calling is never accidental—it is intentional.
- Children (and all of us) are not “future people” but are known, loved, called and valuable NOW.
- Before we were born, God already designed us with purpose and love.

2. God Knows Everything About Us

- God intimately knows every detail of our hearts (Psalm 139).
- Our age, background, insecurities, worries, and mistakes do not cancel God's purpose.
- He already knows about all of it and still calls us.

3. God Empowers His Children

- When we try to disqualify ourselves, God steps in with love, truth, and encouragement.
- God provides both the calling AND the empowerment to fulfill it.
- He goes before us, is presently with us, and protects us from behind.

4. God Provides the Strength We Need to Stand Firm

- Following God's call may bring challenges and opposition.
- God's presence is greater than any opposition we face.
- Like Jeremiah, God's word becomes “a burning fire in our bones” that we cannot ignore.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Understanding the Message

1. **Read Jeremiah 1:4-8 together.** What stands out to you most about God's interaction with Jeremiah? How does God respond to Jeremiah's insecurity?
2. The sermon emphasized that “children are not ‘future people’ to God.” What does this mean practically? How should this truth change the way we view and invest in the next generation?
3. Jeremiah said, “I am only a youth,” and God responded, “Do not say ‘I am only a youth.’” What lies or limiting beliefs do you tell yourself that God might be saying “Do not say” about?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

1. The sermon mentioned that “our identity is not found in our fears, our limitations, or the challenges we face, but in the God who created us.” What specific fear or limitation is God calling you to surrender to Him this week?
2. How can we, as a small group, better support and invest in the next generation (children and youth) at our church? What practical steps can we take?
3. Read Ephesians 2:10. God has prepared good works for us beforehand. What might God be calling you to step into right now that you’ve been hesitant about?

This Week’s Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Identity Declaration

Write out Jeremiah 1:5 and Ephesians 2:10 and place them where you'll see them daily. Each morning, read them aloud and thank God for knowing you, calling you, and preparing good works for you.

Option 2: Encourage the Next Generation

Reach out to a child, teen, or young adult in your life. Speak words of affirmation about how you see God's purpose and gifts in them. Consider volunteering in children's or youth ministry.

Option 3: Confront Your “I Am Only”

Identify one area where you've disqualified yourself (like Jeremiah's "I am only a youth"). Journal about it, pray over it, and ask God to reveal His truth. Share with a trusted friend or group member for accountability.

Option 4: Stand Firm Practice

Identify one area where you're facing opposition or difficulty in following God's call. Memorize Jeremiah 1:19 and declare it over that situation daily.

Reflection & Prayer Requests

1. Which of the VBS truths resonates most with you right now and why?
 - God is our Creator (Wow, God!)
 - God knows everything (Wow, God!)
 - God is our safe place (Wow, God!)
 - God is love (Wow, God!)
 - God is forever (Wow, God!)

2. Devan shared that God empowers us through His instruction (“you shall go,” “you shall speak”) and His affirming relationship (“I am with you”). When have you experienced God’s empowerment in your life?
3. Jeremiah faced opposition but remained faithful because “God’s word was like a burning fire in his bones.” What does it look like for God’s word to burn in your heart today? What keeps that fire alive?

Closing Prayer

Pray for:

- **The next generation** - that children and youth would know they are loved, called, and valuable to God right now
- **Children’s and Youth Ministry leaders and volunteers** - for energy, wisdom, creativity, and protection as they invest in young lives
- **Parents and families** - that they would embrace their role as primary spiritual leaders and grow together in faith
- **Each group member** - that God would silence the lies of disqualification and empower each person to step into their calling with confidence
- **Courage to stand firm** - when opposition comes, that we would trust God's presence is greater than any challenge

Closing Reflection

Read together:

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10 ESV)

You are not an accident. You are God's masterpiece, created with intention, known completely, loved unconditionally, and called purposefully. Whatever God has prepared for you, He will also empower you to accomplish it.