



1. Introduction to this Study

This week, we continue our series You Do You, continuing to engage the story of Jeremiah. Through sermons, study guides, and tools, we have sought to discover our divine design, uncover our true you, recover our kingdom calling, and live out God's dream for the world. If you've missed previous week's studies, click onto gdshp.ch/studyguides.

In this fifth week's study, we turn to **Jeremiah 32.6-15**. Here's the big idea: **We must stop asking God to change our environment, and start allowing God to change our investment.**

2. Connecting with One Another

Where have you seen people make the best of a bad environment?

What helps people overcome when faced with difficult circumstances?

3. See It

a. **Read Jeremiah 32.1-2.**

Recall that some of God's people had already been carried off into exile in Babylon. Who was Zedekiah? Who was Nebuchadnezzar? Who was besieging the city? Why? Where was Jeremiah?

b. **Read Jeremiah 32.3-5.**

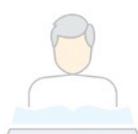
Even more important than **where** Jeremiah is being held is **why** he is there. Why has God's prophet been placed in prison by his own king!?

Can you think of other examples of something similar happening in history?

c. **Read Jeremiah 32.6-8.**

Recall our series last fall in the Book of Ruth, where we learned about the role of a "kinsman redeemer" who had the privilege and responsibility to act on behalf of another family member who was in trouble, in danger, or in need (see, for instance, Ruth 4.6).

Note that the Babylonians already occupied this land at Anathoth! One commentator asserts, "It has been suggested that Hanamel was short of money due to the siege and that this sale was an obvious solution to this need. But the land itself, at Anathoth, was utterly worthless, since it was already in the hands of the Babylonians, and Jerusalem's days were numbered. Only a fool would buy, or expect another to buy, in such circumstances!"





And yet, the Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah to tell him to buy his cousin's field. Do you believe God gives people instructions like that today? Why or why not?

Where or how does a person learn to hear God like that?

d. **Read Jeremiah 32.9-12.**

What does Jeremiah do? Why?

When have you sensed God calling you to do something that in the circumstances didn't seem to make sense? What happened next?

e. When you're faced with a difficult situation, which is a bigger temptation for you – **changing** what you're doing when you shouldn't or **not changing** when you should?

Where have you seen this play out in your life?

f. Imagine you could talk to yourself ten years ago. You can't tell yourself what choices to make or anything about your future, but you can give yourself advice about how to make good choices.

What would you say? In what area of your life do you need to take your own advice today?

g. **Read Jeremiah 32.13-15.**

What does Jeremiah put in a clay jar? Why?

In this difficult season in which we find ourselves, what is God calling you to put in a clay jar? In other words, how is God calling you to invest for His best, even now?

4. Be It

In his book *Younique*, Will Mancini writes, "Everything you need to accomplish God's will in your life you already have, because you have him." What a statement!

He continues, "Think about it: Why would your Father in heaven put you on this planet for unique purposes and not give you the resources to accomplish those purposes? The Bible is replete with promises that God is neither unwilling nor unable to supply us richly... If we are in Christ, our names appear with his on the ownership title to the new heavens and the new earth."

One such example of the Bible's promises comes from Jesus' Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25.14-30. Like those in the parable, we too have been given resources. While our *insecurity* may prompt us to undervalue our resources, our *fear* may cause us to worry about what we'll lose, or our *deception* may cause us to misunderstand God's call on our lives, we are each given resources and expected to use our creativity and initiative to bring a return! To *invest for God's best!*



YOU DO YOU



INVEST FOR
GOD'S BEST

On the next page is a chart of the Five Capitals. As Mancini explains in *Younique* (on page 154, if you're reading along):

Spiritual Capital consists of wisdom, power, and authority (reputation for holiness and integrity) you have as a follower of Jesus.

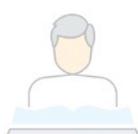
Relational Capital consists of the people you know. This includes your family, friends, and "followers" from your most intimate circle to your widest network.

Physical Capital consists of the physical capacity of your body, including your time, health, and energy level.

Intellectual Capital consists of your knowledge, intelligence, and creative capacity.

Financial Capital consists of your financial net worth, including your cash, assets, and investments.

Before you turn the page to engage these **Five Capitals**, however, be sure to reengage and reflect on our previous four weeks of tools. I trust you'll see ways in which each week builds on the previous week!



YOU DO YOU



INVEST FOR
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	Where do I seem to have the most going for me right now?	Where am I investing the most effort and attention right now?	Where do I want God to bring the most improvement three years from now?
Spiritually			
Relationally			
Physically			
Intellectually			
Financially			

How may God be calling you to *shift* where you are investing the most effort and attention?

How can you *leverage* the area that is going best for you to boost the area that needs the most improvement?

