



BLACK SHEEP
when being faithful means you don't

Discussion Guide for “No Fast, No Feast”

Black Sheep Week 4

You know that "This is Fine" Dog? It's a pretty good representation of God's people in Jeremiah's day - and maybe in ours too. That's why God told Jeremiah not to attend funerals or weddings. God refused to go along with business as usual in the face of the people's unfaithfulness. What does 'no fast, no feast' look like for God's faithful people today?

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. Get a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week's sacred reading is [Jeremiah 4:1-15](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you enjoy weddings? What about funerals? What do the two have in common?
2. Revisit God's command to Jeremiah not to wed or have children. Do you know people these days who make a similar decision? What do you think of it?
3. In verse 5, Jeremiah announces that God is removing God's *shalom*, *chesed* and compassion. What does each of these words mean? What does that total picture look like? How do you feel about it?
4. How does the marriage metaphor for God's covenant with the people shed light on what's happening in vv5-10?
5. Why does Jeremiah have to withdraw from funerals and weddings? How is this a sign for God's people? Where has God called YOU to withdraw from relationships or spaces because of ongoing unfaithfulness?
6. God ends with a hopeful vision in vv14-15. Why is hope essential to God's commands to Jeremiah in this passage?
7. Where do you find hope right now? How does that hope help you to be faithful?