

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of November 15-21, 2020

“A FUTURE & A HOPE”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you could change one thing about the place you are living in, what would it be?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Jeremiah 29:1-14.

1. What was the situation of the Jews during this time? How do you think they'd respond to this prophecy? What would be some of the “violent” reactions of the hearers?
2. *Share.* When Pastor Nic said that you are where God wants you to be, what were your initial thoughts about where you are today? Do you find yourself in “Babylon” or in “Jerusalem”? How have you responded so far?
3. What purpose might the seventy-year period serve? Have you ever had a period in your life when God's answer to your prayers did not fit your time table? How did you respond? What did you learn during that time?
4. The Jews were in exile because they sinned against God. However, God used Babylon as an instrument of punishment. Do you think this is fair? What does this say about God's ways?
5. What is so difficult about verse 7 to apply? Would you have prayed for the welfare of your captors? In real life, how have you applied this?
6. God told the Israelites that they were to build houses, plant gardens, marry and multiply while in exile. What would be a contemporary scenario for this? How does this apply to you specifically today?

7. Now that you understand the context of Jeremiah 29:11, would you consider it an encouraging verse? As a Christian, what does it mean for you to surrender your plans and dreams to God? (Share something specific and practical).

8. [NEXT STEPS]

God's plans for you are always better than any plans that you have for yourself.

- I acknowledge that I am where God wants me to be.
- I will seek to do the best and give glory to God in whatever circumstance.
- I will seek God's plans for myself and surrender my plans to him.
- I will trust that God has his best in mind for me.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for God's strength for you to thrive in whatever situation you are in today.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.