Jeremiah 29:1-14 Study Guide

Read the Scripture passage above and then work through the introduction below to help guide your personal study.

The sermon this weekend comes from Mark 14:32-42, where Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prays that God would “remove this cup from me,” referring to the suffering and judgment he was about to face. Even in this moment of tremendous sorrow, he later prays, “Yet not what I will, but what you will.” One of the reasons we can trust God in troubled times, as Jesus does here, is that God has proven himself faithful to his people through the years. During Jeremiah’s time, the Israelites were experiencing sorrow because of their exile. In small group, we’ll study Jeremiah’s letter to the exiled Israelites in chapter 29.

Jeremiah 29:11 is a famous verse, but it is often applied to life now without considering the context. In chapters 25-28, Jeremiah describes 70 years of captivity that the exiles were about to face. He even uses the phrase “drink the cup” to symbolize God’s judgment (25:15ff). Living among the Babylonians was not easy for the Israelites because they were separated from their homeland, treated like second-class citizens, and pressured to participate in the immorality of the idol-worshipping culture. A false prophet named Hananiah sent a message of hope to the exiles (Jer. 28), saying that in just 2 years, the Israelites could go back to their homeland. Jeremiah 29:1-14 is Jeremiah’s reply to this false hope.

Work through these questions below before you come to small group and be ready to interact and share answers.

**Study Questions**

1. What did you learn from the sermon this weekend?

2. Read Jeremiah 29:1-14. Make a list of the commands that you see in this passage. Which one(s) do you think were most difficult for the Israelites to obey?

3. What is the lie mentioned in verse 9 (hint: take a quick look at the context in chapter 28)? Why would this lie have been so harmful to the exiles?

4. Make a list of the promises that God makes to the exiles. Which one(s) do you think would have given the exiles the greatest hope?
5. How does knowing the context help us apply Jeremiah 29:11 to our lives today?

6. Why is it important that the exiles establish themselves in Babylon?


8. As you reflect on the Garden of Gethsemane and Jeremiah 29, what stands out to you about the way God works in the lives of his people?

9. How will this sermon/study impact the way you pray?

**Prayer Guide**

Read Mark 14:35-36

- Ask God to remove something in your life that is causing you sorrow.
- Ask God also to do his will in your life.
- Declare to God the ways that he has shown himself faithful to you in the past.
- Praise God for being trustworthy, powerful, and intimately loving.
- Pray for your situation, measuring God’s compassion by the cross and his power by the Resurrection.