

JEREMIAH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: WEEK 7

WELCOME / OPEN IN PRAYER

WARMUP: IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY: HAS ANYONE IN THE GROUP TRAVELED TO (OR EVEN LIVED IN) A FOREIGN COUNTRY? SHARE ABOUT ANY CHANGES YOU EXPERIENCED WHILE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY?

The answers might center around food, language, money, homes, etc.

RELATE THAT BACK TO THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL IN EXILE IN BABYLON.

REVIEW THE GUIDELINES FOR SHARING

CONFIDENTIALITY | LISTEN | PAUSE | SILENCE | NO "CROSS TALK"

NO FIXING | NO RESCUING | SHARING | SELF-AWARE | "I" STATEMENTS | FIGHT FOR RELATIONSHIP

More than 2,500 years ago, exiled Jews were eking out an existence in Babylon, away from their home, language...everything they knew. God caused these events in part because He loved His people too much to abandon them to their own self-focused ways. He used their hardships to draw them back to Him so that they could find their true home and find hope and purposeful living.

READ Jeremiah 29:10-14

1. First read the passage in the NIV or another favorite translation
2. Second read the passage from THE MESSAGE

If you are able, you might want to have your group watch part of the video found at nmc.church/JeremiahVideo, just to give an idea of what the Children of Israel were experiencing.

DISCUSS:

- What is significant about the phrase, "I know...." in this passage? What does this prophecy of Jeremiah reveal about the heart of God?
- How does a person seek God with all of his or her heart? Are you doing this?
- Read the following passages: Jeremiah 29:14; Ezekiel 11:17-20; Ezekiel 36: 24-28
How do these passages relate to the idea of coming home? How does this part of Israel's journey relate to our own spiritual journey?

Close out your discussion time with asking this question that presses us to reflect deeper and move into action:

What might need to change, grow, or die in order for you to seek God with all your heart or to live with an undivided heart?