

Bible Study
Jeremiah 29:1-14

Opening Question:

1. What is the biggest thing you ever planned for?

Read Jeremiah 29:1-14

Discussion Questions

1. Observation & reflection
 - (a) Who is this written to?
 - (b) What is the tone?
 - (c) What word or idea stands out to you, what did you struggle to understand?
 - (d) What is the theme of the passage?
2. Why do we make plans?
 - (a) How does it feel when things go according to plan?
 - (b) How does it feel when things don't go as planned?
 - (c) What role does God have in your plans?
3. What commands do you see in this passage?
 - (a) Which one(s) do you think would be most difficult for the Israelites to obey? Why?
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?
 - (a) What give you hope?
5. Why might Jeremiah's words be considered treasonous by the Jews?
6. What barriers would exist for the Israelites to want to seek the welfare of where God sent them?
7. 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?
8. Why do you think we like to read Jeremiah 29:11 without context today?
 - (a) How does knowing the context help us apply Jeremiah 29:11 to our lives today

9. How might you know if the path you are walking is led by God or by yourself?
10. What do you think it means to “seek to know him and to know about him”?
 - (a) How could we go about this better?
11. Reread verses 7 and 10-14. Explain in your own words what “welfare” and “prosperity” mean from God’s perspective.
12. 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?
13. Reflect on your attitude when low points arise. Which perspectives do we default to? What attitude should we have instead?

Thought Points

- Israel is living in exile.
- False prophets abounded in this time
- In Hebrew the root word for “future” has a rich imagery like a rower moving forward yet facing the past.
- God is telling the exiles that their scattering isn’t accidental, and that He still has plans for their lives and for the nation as a whole
- God created, provides for, and directs every one of our paths.
- All the promises of God “find their yes in him” (Christ) 2 Corinthians 1:20

Extra Reading

Jeremiah 28:1-17, Psalm 137, John 14:14, Mark 14:35-36, 2 Timothy 3:10-16
Philippians 1:29, Ephesians 3:20, Psalm 139:16, Colossians 4:5-6, Hebrews 13:2, 1 Peter 2:9-12

Personal Reflection:

- What are your plans for your foreseeable life? Are they in line with God’s plans? How do you know?
- What is one area of life where you need hope from God?
- Are there any thoughts or attitudes in your life that need to change in response to what we’ve read?