



Message Discussion Guide—Week 1

Icebreaker question: What's your favorite city and why?

Key Scripture: Jeremiah 29:1-11

1. Have you heard a story about how God is at work somewhere else in the world that has encouraged you? Share a couple of these stories with your group. Why is it important for us to hear these kinds of stories?
2. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. What stands out to you in this passage?
3. Do God's instructions for how the people are to live in a place they were forcibly exiled to surprise you? How different do you think this was from how the people might have wanted to live if it were up to them?
4. Considering that the Israelites were taken to live in literal Babylon, where the dominant culture worshiped multiple gods in various temples, the temptation to keep to themselves and just endure the 70 years of exile would have been great. Yet God told them to truly "live where they lived" and not only pray for the city but seek its good. What can we learn from this in our circumstances today? What does seeking the peace and prosperity of our city really look like in every day terms? Brainstorm some examples.
5. Read Jeremiah 29:10-11. Does putting this much quoted verse 11 in its context change its meaning? If so, how? (Optional: Read verses 12-14 and bring those into the conversation as well.)

Prayer: God, it is tempting for us to circle the wagons and keep to ourselves in the midst of what feels hopeless in our cultural time and place. Help us be encouraged by the stories of where you are moving in the world, and to pray for and seek the peace and prosperity of the place and people where we live. Be with us as we look for ways to be the presence of Christ in the world.

Practice for the week: Look for some creative way to seek the peace and prosperity of the place where you live.

FOR ADDITIONAL READING AND STUDY:

Use our Bible Reading Plan for week 1 of the series, available [here](#) or at cornerstonemi.org/brp