

MAKE 2022 COUNT

Jeremiah 29:1-9

Focus on resting in the LORD's SOVEREIGNTY

⁴ *"This is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles **whom I have sent** into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:*

Focus on solidifying your family's STABILITY

⁵ *'**Build houses** and live in them; and **plant gardens** and eat their produce.*

Focus on continuing your family's SUSTAINABILITY

⁶ ***Take wives and father sons and daughters**, and take wives for your sons and **give your daughters to husbands**, so that they may give birth to sons and daughters; and **grow in numbers** there and do not decrease.*

Focus on participating in your community's SUCCESS

⁷ ***Seek the prosperity of the city where I have sent you** into exile, and **pray to the LORD on its behalf**; for in its prosperity will be your prosperity.'*

Focus on protecting your family's SUSCEPTIBILITY

⁸ *For this is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel says: '**Do not let your prophets who are in your midst or your diviners deceive you**, and do not listen to their interpretations of your dreams which you dream. ⁹ For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them,' declares the LORD.*

Auburn Grace Community Church – January 2nd, 2022

Life Group Discussion Questions – January 2nd, 2022

Hebrews 4:15-16 *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.*

DISCOVER

1. What are some differences between the culture of your youth and the culture of today? In what ways is it better... is it worse? What about the differences in our world?
2. When it comes to our world and culture, do you tend to see God as a 'hands on' God or a 'hands off' God? In what ways does God demonstrate His Sovereignty today?
3. God sent Israel off of the Promised Land after 700-800 years of occupancy. He continually warned Israel regarding their immorality, selfishness, and idolatry. God warned them for over 500 years. Talk about God's balance between His patience and His holy justice.

EXPLORE (read Jeremiah 29:1-9)

1. What do you think God describes Himself as '*the LORD of armies, the God of Israel*'? What is He trying to communicate with these phrases? He repeats them in v. 8. What is the purpose of the repeated phrases?
2. In vs. 5-6, God instructs families to focus on stability and sustainability. Why are these two qualities so important in their circumstances? Are they just as important in our day today?
3. In v. 6, God instructs how to respond to the city of exile. In Israel's case it would have been either Nineveh or Babylon. Both very culturally corrupt cities. What does God instruct the Israelites to do in their respective cities of captivity? How can we do the same for our city, state, nation?

EXPERIENCE

1. How can you walk more secure in trusting God's Sovereignty? What do you need to do to strengthen your faith in His ultimate control of our culture and world??
2. In spite of the tremendous changes in our culture over the last 50 years, what specifically can you focus on in your life to strengthen your family's stability and sustainability?
3. What might we do as individuals or as a Life Group that can '*seek the prosperity of our city*'? How can we pray 'to the LORD on its behalf'?

PRAY

Pray... Our Gracious God and Father, I am overwhelmed by the rapid changes in our culture. Changes seem to be coming so fast and moving our culture away from You. Help me to stand firm in Your sovereignty. Help me to be a family member who brings stability and sustainability. Show me how to seek the best for our community and not simply complain about the way things are going. Thank you that you are the God of armies and the God of our world today. AMNEN

Action...What is one action step we can take this week to make this lesson a reality on our lives?