

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Outward Church”

Jeremiah 29:1-14

Passage Setting: Jeremiah was active as a prophet from King Josiah (626 BC) to the Babylonian exile and the fall of the temple (586 BC). He is known as the weeping prophet. Throughout this book, he calls Israel to repent and turn back to the Lord. Even though Israel is a conquered and exiled people, our passage today speaks to how they are called to live in a foreign land.

Summary: The church is called to live as exiles into this world, but not to the exclusion of this world. The gospel is not meant to just stay in the walls of the church, but to step into the culture around us.

Central Truth:

Sermon Points:

As we navigated through the Upward, Sideward, and Inward Church over the retreat, this week, Pastor John spoke about the Outward Church. Through this passage, we see how we are called to live as exiles in a foreign land.

Read Jeremiah 29:1-14

1. What is stirred in you when you hear that Christians are to live as exiles in this world? How does your life experience help or hinder your understanding of this biblical concept? How can we better mindfully live as exiles?
2. In what ways would it be easier to live totally separated from the world and culture around us? In what ways would it be easier to live totally the same as the world and culture around us? Why is neither a gospel-shaped option?
3. The church is to live, simultaneously, in care of the culture and counter to the culture? What are some ways you have seen churches and Christians fail to do one or the other well? Why do you think that is?
4. God says that he sends his people to where they are. What are some ways you can seek the welfare of where we live? What are some things you can pray to the Lord on its behalf?

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5. How does the promise of Christ's return and the hope that all of creation will be made new and that people from every tribe and tongue will be saved and worship, as the Church, shape how you can live as an exile today?