



# SOJOURNERS

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

 CHRIST PACIFIC CHURCH

# PLANTED PLANNERS

Jeremiah 29:1-14

This week’s passage explores Jeremiah’s encouragement to sojourners in his letter to many exiles in Babylon (ca. 590’s or 580’s BC). God had judged his people for persistent unfaithfulness, but he was with them, promised a better future, and encouraged the exiles to live faithfully as sojourners in a strange land. We, too, can learn from God’s wisdom here through the prophet Jeremiah.

## GOSPEL—WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS HERE?

The setting for Jeremiah’s letter (29:1-23) is found in verses 1-3. A false prophet had made the exiles think that their deportation would be for a short time (see 28:3-4). God had “a future and a hope” for God’s people (29:10-14). What does God’s declaration in 29:11 tell readers about God’s sovereignty and character? What “hope” can come from hearing and believing a better promised “future” from God?

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Verses 12-14 provide a picture of God’s “plans” for his people after the time of exile is over. What promises did God make concerning the end of “exile” and their future in the land (“this place”)? What renewal would God’s people experience at this time (29:12-14)? How is this expectation similar and different from the “hope” Peter spoke of in 1 Peter 1:3-9?

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## RESPONSE—WHAT CAN I DO FOR OTHERS?

Jeremiah urged the exiles to “seek the welfare of the city.” Consider ways in which you might do this in the city in which you live. Which people are most vulnerable and/or in need? How can you find tangible ways to help them? Get creative and do this with others.

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## RESPONSE—HOW CAN I WORSHIP GOD?

The way in which we live as sojourners for Jesus is a witness to the world. In 29:4-9, how did Jeremiah encourage these people to find a flourishing life in exile? What do you think it means to “seek the welfare of the city” (29:7)? What might be some concrete examples of this in Jeremiah’s time and our own? What kind of praise and witness to God would such a way of life provide?

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“A future and a hope”

A good definition for “hope” in the Bible is “confidence in God’s promised future.” We see this hope at work in this week’s verses. God promised “a future and a hope” to the exiles God had sent away because of their persistent unfaithfulness to God (see Jer. 29:4). In Jeremiah and other Old Testament books, authors identify God as the One who was sovereignly behind the exiling of the northern and southern kingdoms. God promised a better future after the exile.