



## CITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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### Key Ideas:

**Sojourner** - A temporary guest or sojourner was usually someone who wanted to take up temporary residence or had moved from one tribe or people to another and then attempted to obtain certain privileges or rights belonging to the natives.

**Exile** - Mass deportation of large population groups practiced in ancient times usually for political purposes, frequently to destroy the power of an enemy nation and to prevent rebellion. Sometimes the exile of a conquered people was carried out to colonize an area, to create a cultural fusion. Captivity removed people from familiar associations and patriotic memories and put the defeated under the eye of the central government.

## THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE: **JEREMIAH 29:4-7**

*This Sunday, we began a new series called **Joy in the City** as we looked at **12 Values** for followers of Christ as they live joyfully as sojourners. For this week, we focused on introducing the concept of the people of God living as "exiles" and "sojourners" and then looked at the first of the 12 values, **peace**.*

### Introduction:

To introduce these topics and start discussion, begin by reading Jeremiah 29:4-7 and examining the instructions for the exiled Israel.

- What kind of life are we seeing instructed of the people of God?
- You'll notice that there isn't anything *extraordinary* about what God calls his people to. Instead, God is calling them to honor them with what would otherwise be ordinary lives.

### Discussion:

Try to orient your discussion around the idea that we live joyfully because we have peace. This is both *peace with God* (Ephesians 2:14) in the sense that our sins have been covered by the blood of Christ, but this also manifests itself as peace in our daily living (Philippians 4:6-7).

***Because we have peace with God, we have joy*** – not temporary, momentary happiness, but abiding joy.

- Do we see ourselves as even *able* to have joy?
  - Do we more often find ourselves trying to manufacture happiness or pursue true joy?
- If we have peace with God (in the sense that we are justified by his grace) why does it seem as though we don't experience peace in our lives?
- How can it be possible for Christians to live joyfully in exile?

***"God is at home. We are in the far country."*** – Meister Eckhart (1260-1328)