

KINGDOM CITIZENS

Jeremiah 29:4-14
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INTRO:

Not of this world: the **exiles**; the **apostolic** church and the **people** of God

A. WE NEED TO BE **RESPONSIBLE**

1. Build strong **foundations** (Jeremiah 29:5; Genesis 18:18-19)
2. Engage in **civic** responsibility (Jeremiah 29:6; Romans 13:1-7)

B. WE NEED TO BE **PRAYERFUL**

1. Pray for its **success** (Jeremiah 29:7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2)
2. Promote the **peace** (Jeremiah 29:7; Romans 14:19; Matthew 5:9)

C. WE NEED TO BE **CAREFUL**

1. Discern the different **voices** that we hear (Jeremiah 29:8; Romans 12:3)
2. Decide based on **biblical** principles (Jeremiah 29:9; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29)

D. WE NEED TO BE **FAITHFUL**

1. Trust in God's **plans** (Jeremiah 29:10-11; Revelations 11:15)
2. Live with **hope** (Jeremiah 29:12-14; Philippians 3:20)

CONCLUSION

As the exiles and the church consistently modeled, our first and foremost allegiance must be to Christ. In a world divided by politics, let us be unified by the Gospel. Let our citizenship in heaven shape how we engage with earthly politics, and let our love for Christ transcend all divisions.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker:

1. Share about a time when you found yourself in a situation where you felt “stuck” or out of place. How did you cope with it?

Exploring the Passage:

2. In verse 4, God tells the Israelites that He has sent them into exile. How does this challenge your understanding of difficult seasons in life?
3. Verses 5-6 speak about building houses, planting gardens, and increasing in number even in exile. Why do you think God instructed them to thrive in their current circumstances, rather than waiting for deliverance first?
4. Verse 7 instructs the people to "seek the peace and prosperity" of the city they are in. How can we, as believers, seek the welfare of our communities, even when we might feel disconnected or challenged by them?
5. In verses 8-9, God warns the people against listening to false prophets. How can we discern between God's voice and false promises or distractions in our lives today?
6. Verse 11 is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible, where God declares He has plans to prosper and not harm His people. How does this verse encourage you in difficult circumstances, and how might it be misunderstood if taken out of context?
7. Verses 12-13 highlight God's call to seek Him wholeheartedly. What does it look like to seek God with all your heart in your current season of life?

Applying the Passage:

8. How can you apply the message of Jeremiah 29:4-14 in your personal situation? Are there areas of your life where you need to “build, plant, and increase” rather than waiting for a change of circumstances?
9. What practical steps can you take to “seek the peace and prosperity” of the community or workplace you are in, even if it feels like a challenging place to be?
10. How can this group support each other in seeking God with all our hearts?

Closing Reflection:

Take time to pray for one another, the peace and unity for our country and the upcoming elections.