

Ministry in Our City

As exiles and strangers, we seek the welfare of the city where God has placed us.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Jeremiah 29:4-7

August 16, 2020

(Jeremiah 29:4-7) ⁴ This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷ Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

(1 Peter 2:11-12) ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

(1 Thessalonians 4:9-12) ⁹ Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, ¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- Where is your hometown? What do you love about the place you are from? What might you change about it?
- If you are living in a city that is different from the one where you are from, what have you come to appreciate about the place where you live right now?

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Jeremiah 29:4-7

- Who deported the people of Israel to Babylon? Why is this an important point for Israel, and for us, to remember? How does this change the way we think about where we live?
- Why do you think God told them to "build houses and plant gardens"? How did God see their location differently than they did?
- How were God's instructions to Israel here in captivity reminiscent of God's instruction to Adam and Eve?
- How does verse 7 fit in with God's plan to bless the nations through His people? What type of relationship must we develop with the place we live in order for this to happen?

Have a volunteer read 1 Peter 2:11-12

- What does it mean to be a "stranger" or a "temporary resident." How does this idea relate to God's commands in Jeremiah 29?
- What do you think it looks like to "conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles"? How is God's kingdom advanced as a result of doing what Peter asks in these verses?

Have a volunteer read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

- What do you make of Paul's instruction in verse 11? Is this characteristic of most Christians you know? Why or why not?
- Do you struggle with apathy, restlessness, being meddlesome, or idleness? Why should we consider what people will think about the God we serve based on the life we live?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- Do you see the place you live as a very real mission field that God has chosen for you? Why or why not? Why do we not have to travel the globe or even leave our city to live as sent ones?
- How does involving ourselves in community help us to feel the tension of living in a broken world while also investing in it?
- What are some ways that you can invest in your city and its people? How can you leverage these opportunities to make disciples of Jesus?

PRAYER: Praise God for putting you exactly where He wants you to be. Ask for His guidance for how to spend your time there. Pray that you would not feel so at home that you fail to see the mission in front of you and that you wouldn't feel so out of place that you wouldn't dig into and love the place God has called you to.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Jer. 31:31-40, 32-33
 DAY 2 – Jer. 52, 2 Kings 24-25
 DAY 3 – Ezek. 1:1-3, 36:16-38, 37
 DAY 4 – Daniel 1-2
 DAY 5 – Daniel 3-4

KEY VERSE: Ezekiel 36:26-27

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
 Explain what the text means.
 Apply the verse to your life.
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
 for the unchurched,
 here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.