

EXILES – Exile

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series this fall will explore the book of Jeremiah (Exiles). A set of questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories BEFORE you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming series.

- Assuming you have received an actual letter in the mail (pre-2000's), what was it like when you received a long-expected reply?
- Read **Jeremiah 29:1-23**. What surprises you in this letter?
- This letter was written to Jewish exiles in Babylon. What does it mean to be in exile? Take a moment to consider how this would feel. Have you ever felt this way?
- Read **Psalms 137**. How did the psalmist feel about exile?
- Jeremiah encourages the exiles to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city.” Given that Babylon had destroyed their land, how were they supposed to do this? Why did Jeremiah give this instruction?
- Jeremiah seems to suggest that being taken into exile was better than staying in Jerusalem. How could losing your home and your land be better than staying?
- Read **1 Peter 2:11-17**. Who are the exiles addressed in this letter?
- What does it mean that Christians should live in the world as exiles? How are we to do this?
- John Francis Kavanaugh (Catholic philosopher) wrote: “Since Christian faith at rock bottom conflicts with western culture, even subverts it—the practicing Christian should look like a Martian. He or she will never feel at home in the commodity kingdom. If the Christian does feel at home, something is drastically wrong.” What do you think?