

EXILES – Babylon

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.

- Read **Jeremiah 25:1-14**. What stands out for you?
- How long had Jeremiah been warning the people of Judah? What does this tell us about the nature of God?
- Why do you think people so often ignore God's warnings? Is that still true? How might we become more attentive to what God is saying?
- Notice that God calls Nebuchadnezzar "my servant" (v. 9), even though Babylon was a pagan nation. What does this teach us about the sovereignty of God? How might this shape the way we view current global affairs or national crises?
- Even as God announces judgment, he promises that he will bring restoration (vs. 12-14). What does this reveal about God's heart toward His people? How can we hold on to hope when we face the consequences of sin or seasons of discipline?
- Read **Hebrews 12:4-11**. What is the purpose of God's discipline?
- How does understanding God's discipline as an expression of his love change the way we respond to hardship or suffering in our lives?
- According to Hebrews, discipline "produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (v. 11) What does it mean to be trained by discipline?
- von Balthasar, a Swiss theologian, wrote: "Love is the essence of divine being itself, and all God's actions, *even his judgments*, are expressions of that same love. For the God who judges is the God who has already suffered judgment in his Son." (emphasis added). How might you read Jeremiah 25 differently in this light?