

MISSION 2020 = HANLEY ROAD
ENJOY GRACE – JEREMIAH 29:1-14

SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – SEPTEMBER 20

OPEN

1. What do you find most of your energy and attention going to these days?

This week, we begin a short series reflecting on our mission to enjoy grace, embody love, and engage culture in the challenging season. Pastor Carlos invited us consider God's word through the prophet Jeremiah in the context of the Babylonian exile—an experience in Israel's history where their entire way of life was disrupted and their future seemed uncertain. **READ JEREMIAH 29:1-14.**

DISCUSS

2. In describing the biblical context of the exile, Pastor Carlos spoke about the “theological” challenge of the exile, referring to the way in which God's people questioned the status of God's promises. In this challenging season, how have you wrestled with God's promises for you? When have you sensed his presence with you in the midst of the chaos and uncertainty of this season?
3. God called his people to **multiply** in Babylon (v. 6). This is a word used in God's original blessing and purpose for humanity in Genesis 1 and is used to describe God's people increasing in Egypt in Exodus 1. Given these connections, what did the command to multiply remind the people about their God? What about God's character were you reminded of in listening to this week's sermon?
4. Pastor Carlos challenged us to remember that even though things are not going “back to normal” as quickly as we want, God's calling for his church has not changed and his **mission** is not on hold.
 - a. How do you sense the Spirit calling you to engage more deeply with what God is doing here at The Journey Hanley Road? Is there a class, ministry, or serving opportunity that stands out to you?
 - b. Is there another way you sense the Spirit calling you to look outside of your own circumstances in following him?
5. In the exile, the people were not only called to multiplication and mission, but to “**the Master**” himself. Read verses 10-14 again. Before responding, reflect for a moment on the state of your own heart right now.
 - a. Where have you been “out-of-sync” with God? Is there a way in which you've been cold or closed off?
 - b. How can you speak the truth of the gospel to your own heart right now? Is there a way in which God's heart was revealed to you in a particularly gripping way through this passage or Pastor Carlos's sermon?

PRAY

Take what you've shared from question #5 directly into prayer. Praise God. Acknowledge any hardness of heart. Ask the Spirit to revive in you a passion and pursuit for God's glory and his mission. Pray for each other and for what the Spirit is doing through our church.