

## SERVE THE COMMUNITY

*Jeremiah 29:4-14*

### MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. TWO WRONG WAYS TO LIVE AS EXILES
2. GOD'S WAY TO LIVE AS EXILES
3. HOW WE DO THIS

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. We live in a fragmented culture that can leave all of us feeling like we don't belong. What are some ways that you feel like an "exile" in our culture?
3. Jeremiah 29:4-14 answers the question, "How do you live in a fragmented society that disregards and even disdains what you believe?" If someone looked at your life from the outside, what would they think is your answer to that question?
4. The two wrong ways to live as exiles can be summed up as assimilation and tribalism. Assimilation is becoming indistinct from the culture you live in. Tribalism is secluding yourself from the culture you live in and only coming into contact with them when you need something from them. What are some examples of ways that Christians fall into living like this? What makes each of these ways wrong?
5. God's way for exiles to live is to seek the shalom of their surrounding community. Shalom is a Hebrew word that indicates flourishing in every category and dimension. A person experiencing shalom would be flourishing physically, mentally, spiritually, socially, psychologically, practically, etc. What could it look like for you to "seek the shalom" of your neighborhood, workplace and community around you? (**Note:** Try to give specific examples)
6. When we talk about "Serving the Community" we mean so much more than signing up for a few serve projects each year. We are talking about being a people marked by seeking the holistic flourishing of the community around us. However, we still do serve projects and we think they are good. Where do organized serve projects fit into a life of seeking the flourishing of our community?

**A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU:** Jesus is the ultimate exile who sought our shalom. He left heaven. On the cross, heaven left Him. He was abandoned by His friends. He was forsaken by His Father. And all of this was for us while we were still His enemies.