

ALL IN: Week 1 – Redefining Christianity

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

In chapters 25 - 28, the prophet Jeremiah describes the 70-year exile that the Israelites were about to experience. Living among the Babylonians would not be easy as they would be mistreated by them and forced to participate in their idolatry. A false prophet named Hananiah sent a message of hope to the exiles saying they would be able to return in two short years. In today's passage, Jeremiah responds to this false prophecy.

Tell the story – Jeremiah 29:1-11 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God does not abandon us; God has a plan and purpose for us; God wants us to work for the success of our city; God wants us to pray for our city and its leadership; God always speaks truth to us; God allows us to go through difficulties that grow us stronger in our faith (James 1:2-4); God doesn't want us to be deceived but wants us to take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ (II Corinthians 10:5); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I dislike it when I'm placed in difficult situations that challenge and stretch my faith; I'm distracted by so many things that prevent me from putting Jesus first; I am so grateful that His presence never leaves me; I am hesitant to live out my faith in my work environment where I'm in constant contact with the lost; I often make decisions based on the "temporary" instead of the "eternal"; I am in constant need of God's strength and wisdom; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other Questions specific to this passage:

1. Why was it important that the exiles establish themselves in Babylon (verse 7)? How does this apply to our lives today as we live out the gospel (Matthew 5:16)?
2. With whom does the Lord want you to have a gospel-centered conversation?

Assign Next week's passage – Daniel 1:1-21 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

ALL IN: Week 1 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

Be an inviter. I have been asked by several of you, “How do I get people to come to my Grow Group?” The answer is simple. Invite them. Make sure others in your Grow Group feel free to invite people as well. I find this to be important for groups that meet in homes because it can seem weird inviting someone to another person’s house. You regularly come in contact with people who are just waiting to be invited to attend your Grow Group!

Ask God to open your eyes to the people you work with, work out with, and, yes, even attend church with. Another great way to make new contacts is to spend time in the church foyer. Don’t be afraid to introduce yourself to people as they enter the building. Part of inviting people to your Grow Group is testifying about how critical being in a group has been for you. Encourage those in your Grow Group to share their great testimonies with others.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

In this section, we often talk about shepherding the people in your Grow Group. But God has placed people in all realms of your life that you can disciple. Obviously, being in a Grow Group together is helpful because you have a specific time set aside each week where you are in the Word of God together. Yet most people do not start out their walk with the Lord in a Grow Group. Seek out people in your life that are not being discipled by someone else. Pray about how God might want to use you in that person’s life.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

Just a few weeks ago, we concluded a 4-week study with Pastor Ed on how the Gospel is for every moment of our life. Is there a particular area of your life where you aren’t fully surrendering to the Lord? Review the scriptures from the “Made for Mondays” series below, and ask God to reveal ways you might be holding back.

Psalms 127: Made for the Home

Colossians 3:23-25: Made for Work

Matthew 25:14-30, Ecclesiastes 5:10-11: Made for Money

Luke 10:38-42: Made for Stress