

# Community Group

Week of October 23

## Jeremiah 29:4-14

Today's big idea: God has plans for us.

- Talk with each other about plans that you made that didn't work out the way you had hoped.
- Community Group Guidelines are our plan for how we will conduct ourselves with the group. Review those together as a group.

## Bible Study

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of God's Message to the Exiles in Babylon.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Jeremiah 29:4-14 in the Bible.
- Why would it be important for the Israelites to hear verse 11? Why might they doubt that?
- Who will do the "finding" and how will that come about?
- How would the message about the prophets be significant to those in Babylon? What does that have to do with us?

## As We Go

- Have you ever doubted that God had plans for your life? Either way, what was the basis for those feelings?
- What are some things that you are doing now to seek and find God and his plans for your life?
- How can God use you, right where you are, to help lead other people closer to him?
- Share prayer requests with one another and also pray that God would help you discern his plans for your lives.

Upcoming Events – see newsletter for all the details

- HFC Vision Conference – Friday 10/28 and Sunday 10/30 (same presentation)
- Pastor Appreciation Reception after worship on Sunday, 10/30
- TXM Annual Assembly – 11/4 and 11/5 volunteers needed
- Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due Sunday, Nov. 6th



[hfcog.org](http://hfcog.org)

## **COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES**

### **Confidentiality**

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

### **Don't Rescue & Don't Fix**

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

### **No Crosstalk**

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

### **Use Humor Responsibly**

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

### **Give Everyone a Chance to Share**

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

### **Use "I" Statements**

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

### **Fight for Relationship**

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.