

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29 is the text of a letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the Israelite exiles (captives) in Babylon.

Jeremiah 29:4-14

⁴ This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

⁵ "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷ Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." ⁸ Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. ⁹ They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD.

¹⁰ This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

In Jeremiah 29:4-14 we see that God is always at work to fulfill His plan for us. Even when our lives are not in the place that God intends them to be, or whether it is by our choice or by circumstance outside our control, God is still in control and He is in the process of fulfilling His plan.

1. What do you discover about God's plan for your life from Jeremiah 29:11?

That He has a plan to prosper me, to give me a hope and a future. Even in the worst situation He won't let me be harmed. It is like Romans 31-39 says, "If God is for us who can be against us?" "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creations will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. What does it mean to you that God knows the plan He has for you and that plan is to prosper you, to give you a hope and a future?

Ask people to share how this verse encourages them. Ask individuals to share if they live as though God has a plan for their future.

Ask: Does your disposition in life reflect that you really believe God plans to prosper you and give you a hope and a future?

3. Share with the group a time or circumstance from your life that made it difficult to see that God had a plan.

Ask people to share

4. How has God used that circumstance to reveal His plan to give you a hope and a future?

Continue with people sharing from personal experiences

5. How has He allowed these situations to teach you to seek Him and trust Him in all of your circumstances?

Continue with people sharing from personal experiences

6. We are God's chosen people. He has a plan for us no matter what our circumstances. So after reading Jeremiah 29:4-14, what are some basic disciplines you have discovered that God is telling you to do where you are?

Here are my thoughts

- I need to learn to be content where God has me even if it isn't where I want to be. I need to find joy and life in my current circumstances because God is with me and He wants to bless me. (verses 4-6)
- I need to make it my purpose to be a blessing to others. (verse 7)
- While I am in this place even if it is a place of discomfort, I need to pray for my city/community.
- I need to resist listening to the lies of the world around me and stay away from false hope and ungodly directions. (verses 8-9)
- I must submit my control and my plans to God's provision and God's plan. (verses 10-11)
- I must trust and believe that He has a plan and purpose for all things in my life and because of that I should find hope in what the future brings through him. (verse 11)
- I must believe that when I call to Him, He hears my prayers.
- Above all things, I must seek God with all my heart. (verses 12-13)
- Freedom and a better place is yet to come. Or as the song says, greater things are yet to come. (verse 14)

Daily Meditation Readings:

Day 1: Psalm 46

Day 2: Psalm 51

Day 3: Psalm 52

Day 4: Psalm 55

Day 5: Psalm 56