

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:
Blessed to be Broken (Week 3) – January 15, 2023**



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

Ask, "Have you ever had to move to a new community, state, or country? If so, was it your choice or someone else's decision? What did you find most difficult about getting settled in a new place?"

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Jeremiah 29:1-4. Say, "The Lord begins by reminding His people, not of their situation, but of His significance ("This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel"). In times of struggle or crisis, why is this reminder what we need most?" Ask, "What names/attributes of God are of most comfort to you? Why?" Ask, "Who carried the Jews into exile?" Say, "Many of us need this realization in our lives today, God said I carried you here. I brought you into this circumstance by My will." Read **Ephesians 1:11 (NLT)** and discuss it within your group. Say, "If God carried them into this place of captivity, then God has a plan for them there. If God has carried you into this season of brokenness, then God must have a plan for you there. Everything works out according to His plan." Discuss this truth.

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Jeremiah 29:5-9. Say, "In verses 5-7 God is saying, use the place or the situation I have placed you in as an opportunity to prosper." Ask, "How do we let our struggle rob us of the life in front of us? How can we use our captivity, our pain, our struggle, and even our brokenness to grow our faith and our CF family?" Say, "Your captivity is an opportunity, not an obstacle. Through the Jews captivity, God allowed them to plant seeds of faith in a pagan culture. Similarly, because of your situation God is allowing you to plant seeds of faith into people's life you never would've had the opportunity to." Say, "Several false prophets had said they would go back soon. The temptation would have been to look towards the future to find their plan. In contrast, what does Jeremiah tell them to do? What surprises you about this?"

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Jeremiah 29:10-14. Say, "God speaks that the future is planned out for your good. We see this in Jesus as He has been raised to life for you." Ask, "How does trusting that God has the future worked out allow you to let His blessings flow through you where you are now? How has this text helped you understand God's plan for your life?"

DOING THE WORD. Say, "Sometimes we find ourselves in situations that overwhelm and disorientate us. It can feel like we are strangers in a strange land. God's encouragement to us is to keep listening to Him for He has a good plan for our lives with a hope-filled future. God knows, wants, and is able to bring about what is best for you (Romans 8:28). The story of your life has not been ruined, not by your sin or anyone else's. God's good plans for your life is not buried under the mistakes of the past. He is working these plans out in your life right now, today." Ask, "Will you believe that? And will you renew your commitment to seeking God, and following Him, and serving Him with your whole heart; free of the past, no longer weighed down by regret?" Close by asking, "What is one way the group can pray for you as you seek to apply this week's message?"