

STAND IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE

Objective: To challenge us to live intentionally for Jesus in a way that blesses those around us.

ICEBREAKER

Most of us have places we visit so regularly that we barely think about them anymore.

What is one place you go almost every week where people would probably notice if you suddenly stopped showing up?

- Work?
- A restaurant or coffee shop?
- Your neighborhood?
- School or a kids' activity?
- A store, gym, club, or volunteer role?

1. Read Jeremiah 29:4–7. What stands out to you about what God tells the exiles to do in Babylon?

- What might you have expected God to tell them instead?
- Why do you think “build,” “plant,” and “settle down” would have been difficult instructions to hear?

2. Babylon was not where the people of Judah wanted or expected to be. What are some ways we can become so focused on where we wish we were that we miss what God may want to do where we are?

- Have you ever caught yourself thinking, “Once this changes, then I can really...”?
- How can constantly waiting for a different season keep us from being fully present in this one?

3. The message made an important distinction: Judah's exile was covenant judgment, but that does not mean every difficult circumstance in our lives is God's punishment. Why is that distinction important?

- What are some different reasons we may find ourselves in situations we did not choose?
- How does it change things to know that a place we would not have chosen can still become a place where God uses us?

4. Jeremiah 29:7 says, “Seek the peace and prosperity of the city.” What would it look like for the places you regularly inhabit to actually be better because you are there?

- Your workplace?
- Your neighborhood?
- Your family?
- Your school or community?
- What does it look like to “be there well”?

5. Read Matthew 5:13–16. Jesus calls His followers salt and light. What do those images tell us about the importance of presence?

- “Salt has to touch something.”
- “Light has to shine somewhere.”
- Where are Christians sometimes tempted to remain disconnected from the very people we hope to influence?

6. The message said, “The church should BE good news before we ever ask people to come HEAR the Good News.” What do you think that means?

- What makes a Christian's presence feel like good news to the people around them?
- What kinds of attitudes or behaviors can damage that witness?
- Who has modeled this kind of faithful presence well for you?



7. Faithful presence creates relationships, and relationships create opportunities. What makes a spiritual conversation or invitation feel natural rather than forced?

- Why does trust matter?
- How is inviting someone you genuinely care about different from making someone an “evangelism project”?
- Is there someone already in your life for whom an invitation to coffee, lunch, prayer, or church might be a natural next step?

FINAL THOUGHT

Most of our lives are not lived in dramatic, obviously spiritual moments. They are lived in ordinary places with people we see again and again. Jeremiah reminds us that those places are not meaningless. We can build lives there, seek the good of the people around us, and trust God to use our faithful presence in ways we may never fully see.

WHERE GOD HAS PLACED YOU, HE HAS CALLED YOU TO STAND.

THIS WEEK

Identify:

ONE PLACE: Where has God placed me?

ONE PERSON: Who has God placed around me?

ONE STEP: How can I seek that person’s good this week?

- Maybe your step is to listen, encourage, help, pray, share a meal, or simply make time for them.
- And maybe your next step is as simple as saying: “Come with me Sunday.”

