

Cultural Engagement  
Jeremiah 29:4-14  
June 19, 2022

**REACH**  
AN INVITATION INTO GOD'S MISSION



We are living in a post-Christian culture. Over the last 30 years, we have experienced a steep decline in the influence of Christianity over the culture of America. While this can be incredibly disheartening for us, we also must see it as an amazing opportunity to rely on and trust in God even more. What should our proper, biblical response be to our post-Christian world? We turn to the ancient wisdom of the prophet Jeremiah to help us.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What thoughts or feelings rise when you read this statement: We are living in a post-Christian culture? What evidence have you seen of this in your own experience?
2. Two of the main responses by Christians to the post-Christian culture have been to (1) Separate (cutting off or fighting back) or (2) Accommodate (blend in so you cannot tell a difference). Which category do you tend to lean towards? What are the benefits and liabilities of each of these positions?
3. Read Jeremiah 29:4-14. This is a part of a letter to the Jews in exile in Babylon. Focus on verses 4-7. What message is God trying to send when He tells them to build houses, plant gardens, and get married and have children? If you were just removed from your homeland and given this message, what would your reaction be?
4. Jeremiah 29:7 is a key verse in this letter.
  - What does it mean for the Jews to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city”?
  - What does it mean for YOU to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city”?
  - How is this idea different from Separation or Accommodation?
5. Focus on Jeremiah 29:10-14. As you look at Jeremiah 29:11, how does the greater context of this passage influence the way you understand this verse? What are some of the plans that God has in mind for the Jews in exile? How should the hope of returning change the way they live as individuals and as a people?
6. Read Romans 12:9-21. How might what we read in Jeremiah 29:7 and these verses in Romans help inform the way we might seek the peace and prosperity of the places we live? Pray for opportunities to live out Jeremiah 29 and Romans 12 together!