

How Do I, Neighbor?- Placed for a Purpose

⁴This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: ⁵"Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. ⁶Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! ⁷And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."

Jeremiah 29:4-7

The circumstances may change, but the mission never changes!

1. God has placed you somewhere on purpose.

"Sometimes we think we're stuck somewhere when God sees us as sent somewhere."

God has placed you near people you are uniquely positioned to love.

2. Bless the place where God has placed you.

⁵“Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. ⁶Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away!

Jeremiah 29:5-6

Small acts of love can communicate something enormous about God's character.

3. Seek their good, not just your own.

⁷And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:7

¹²Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

1 Peter 2:12

“Instead of bringing people to church so that we can then bring them to Christ, let’s bring Christ to people where they live.”- Neil Cole (Organic Church)

4. Pray for the place God has given you.

Prayer turns a neighborhood a place you occupy into a people you love.

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," says the LORD. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Action Steps

- **Pray for a neighbor this week.**
- **Find one way to bless your neighborhood this week.**
- **Find a unique way to bring "shalom" to your neighborhood this week.**