

## **GROW & SERVE GROUP GUIDE AND HOMEWORK**

### **Getting To Know One Another**

- Home can be defined as a place where we can experience: identity, belonging, relationship, roots, security, protection, freedom, peace, meaning and calling. Which is most important to you and why?

### **Discuss Your Serve Project**

### **Reflecting on the Sunday Message**

This week we are studying the exile of the people of Israel. These are the questions we are asking: (1) What is home? (2) What might we feel in exile? and (3) How are we to live in exile?

In this text we read how the people of Israel struggle to live in exile (in Babylon). What makes this even more challenging is knowing that God sent them into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. There are people through out history and the world who live/have lived in exile (i.e. refugees) and we may ourselves experience exile as Christians, recognizing that heaven is our home. Yet God calls the people of Israel to create a sense of home in exile, in Babylon. They hope that their time in exile will be short but God calls them to prepare to live there for generations and to seek His peace among their enemies. In exile they will experience peace as they seek his peace. God promises to bring them out of exile. God is their/our home, now and post exile.

### **Digging Further into the Bible:**

1. Read Jeremiah 29:1-14
2. How do you define home? What expectations do you have for a sense of home? How do you experience/have you experienced home?
3. The people of Israel lived in exile. Please describe what exile looked like for them. What does exile look like for you?

4. What do we learn about the people of Israel in this passage? What do we learn about God in this passage?
  
5. What message does God speak to the people of Israel in this passage? Why do you think God speaks this message?
  
6. What helped the people of Israel live in exile? Describe a time when you felt like you were in exile (could be a current experience). What can help you live in exile? What did God promise to the people of Israel and what does he promise us in exile? What do you/we hope for in exile? What does it look like to live as people of hope in exile?
  
7. What 1-2 next steps can/will you take to seek peace, welcome others and create a sense of family with others in the place God has you in now?

**Share how you are doing this week with one another. Pray for one another, the church, and our neighborhood.**