

# *One Kingdom*

## *Kingdom People in a Hostile World (September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020)*

### PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Opening Prayer:** (1-2 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to sacrifice Himself on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another, just as you have loved us! Pray that the Holy Spirit would give us the words to speak, show us opportunities to serve our neighbors, and continue to transform us into the likeness of Jesus so that we might lay down our lives for one another and experience abundant life as your kingdom representatives!

#### **Discussion:** (45-60 minutes)

#### What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the third week of our series titled *One Kingdom*. Pastor Danny focusses on *Jeremiah 29* to give us a picture of how God's kingdom people function in a hostile environment. Using the context of the scripture, he compares our living situation in the Bay Area to the Israelites who found themselves in captivity in Babylon. Pastor Danny looks at God's command for Israel to plant their roots in Babylon and seek its prosperity as a challenge for 3Crosses to seriously take into consideration God's mission of spiritual and social revival in hostile areas when we inevitably entertain thoughts of moving away from the Bay Area

**“As you devote your life to bringing the kingdom of God to the Bay, you will begin to notice that living in the Bay Area is actually breathing life into your soul as well” – Pastor Danny Strange**

## Suggested Questions

**Check-In: Icebreaker** – Share your story of how you ended up in the Bay Area!

**Study Tip:** Are you familiar with Jeremiah 29 because of verse 11? If so, you know it can be easy to make this verse mean something that it is not supposed to! If we begin to search this chapter for surrounding contextual clues, you may begin to notice some unordinary names! Usually, these names are extremely helpful to determine the appropriate time period so you can immerse yourself in the story! Here, two kings of Judah are mentioned: Jeconiah and Zedekiah. Jeconiah happens to be another name for Jehoiachin (2 Kgs. 24:12) or Coniah (Jer. 22:4) son of Jehoiakim. Let's start with Jehoiakim! Jehoiakim was at the helm for the very first Babylonian invasion (605). His son Jehoiachin took the throne and surrendered to Babylon resulting in the second wave of exile. Finally, Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle, was appointed to the vacant throne by Babylonian authorities and watched the city be destroyed (586). At this point, you might be wondering *why has God allowed this to take place and prophesying to STAY in Babylon?* **Well, hindsight is 20/20!** In 2 Chronicles, the post-exilic author tells us that these 70 years were God's way of giving his kingdom territory its Sabbath rest as Leviticus instructed God's people to do every 7<sup>th</sup> year (Leviticus 25:2-4, 8, 18; 26:27-35, 43). Since Israel had neglected God's commands (2 Chron. 36:20-21) God had calculated 70 years of accumulated debt. If your following the math, that means that the Israelites had neglected the 7<sup>th</sup> year Sabbath a total of 70 times equating to a 490 year period! On schedule, the Israelites would return home (536) and eventually built the second temple (516). Regardless of which year you select, if you add 490 years to it, you wind up with what is widely agreed upon as the approximate time when King David is anointed (536 + 490 = 1026) and when King David officially takes the throne (516 + 490 = 1005). This reminds the people of Judah that David and all of his descendants had disobeyed God in one way or another! We read, however, that Jehoiachin finds favor in Babylon and the line of David is both preserved (2 Kgs. 25:27-30; Matt. 1:11-12) and punished for wickedness (Jer. 22:24-30). This week, consider Jeremiah 29:11 in its context and how God's plans are far beyond what we can imagine but are always meant for the good of His kingdom people because they consistently point us to the everlasting and faithful King coming from the line of David!

**Objective #1: Reflect on your attitudes towards your residence in the Bay Area.**

*Primary Texts: Jeremiah 29:1-9* – Pastor Danny begins by acknowledging that the Bay Area has become a very distinct place in our world when it comes to its posture towards hot topics like worldview, politics, congestion, crime, housing prices, homelessness, diversity, COVID-19, and many others. Pastor Danny compares our situation as residents of the Bay Area to the Israelites who had been exiled to Babylon and were actually called by God to stay where they were! **Do you ever think or talk to God about moving from the Bay Area? Why or why not?**

**Objective #2: Brainstorm ways by which God may be calling you to make a difference in the East Bay!**

*Primary Texts: Reread Jeremiah 29:4-7* – Next, Pastor Danny challenges us to see that God wanted Babylon to be filled with people who would worship Him! Pastor Danny states that when we consider where we are laying down our roots, we should seriously consider the mission of God to change the spiritual and social climate of entire regions through His kingdom people. **Considering that God has you here in this moment, how might God be calling you to raise the spiritual vitality of your region? How might God be calling you to fix some social issues in your region?**

*Supporting texts: (Kingdom Multiplication) Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 1:1-22; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Revelation 7:9-12*

**Objective #3: Commit to praying and humbly fixing what grieves you rather than complaining.**

*Primary Texts: Jeremiah 29:10-14; Philippians 4:4-20* – Pastor Danny concludes by offering some practical steps for us to step into this mission of God right here in the East Bay! First, he challenges us to stop complaining and start praying for our region. Second, he challenges us to humbly get to work fixing whatever grieves you in this place! **What has been the biggest area of complaint for you during this time and how can you move from complaining about it to praying over it? What is God placing on your heart to do when you think about whatever is grieving you about the Bay Area and how can we as a group help encourage you to take action?**

**Closing Prayer:** (5-10 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank our Heavenly Father for revealing His love through his selfless life and his sacrificial death on the cross! Ask that the Holy Spirit would continue to equip us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus in the various hardships and situations we face daily. Finally, pray that we as a church would unite as a people who are *known by* our love for one another as we humbly interact with the church and our surrounding community under the banner of One Kingdom!

### **THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**-Host a Watch Party:** At 3Crosses, we are excited to introduce [Watch Parties](#) for our Sunday Services. If you already have a social bubble meeting on Sundays, great! Be sure to let us know about it! Feel free to take a picture and send it in to AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org). If you are interested in launching a new Watch Party and *safely* opening up your home to new guests and those looking for community, let us know [HERE](#)

**-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities:** Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

**- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Pray that the members of your group would find a way to bring God's kingdom to the place in which they live this week!

**-Community Group Fall 2020:** For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)