

## BBQ Evangelism – Faithful Presence

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Jeremiah 29:1, 4-11  
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### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

#### **Early missionaries immersed themselves in the culture of those they were sent to**

Evangelism is less about preaching TO people and more faithful presence with the people around you.

#### **Read and discuss**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-11 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

<sup>4</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup>“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup>Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. <sup>7</sup>Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” <sup>8</sup>Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. <sup>9</sup>They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

\*What strikes you about this passage, in light of this series on evangelism?

#### **God has sent you**

He sent you to the place you live and the place you work, and He has a purpose behind it.

\* What are the implications of believing that God has you where He wants you? Does this change how you feel about a less than ideal situation?

#### **God wants us to seek shalom for our places**

Shalom equals: Peace, prosperity, harmony, success, thriving, flourishing in all areas.

\* Describe what shalom could look like in one of your places.

\*When have you felt the tendency to withdraw and isolate where you live or work?

#### **Our good news must be tangible**

We have an invitation to join God in everyday places and with everyday things.

\*Why do we sometimes try to make evangelism so difficult?

\*Where can you find freedom in doing evangelism in this everyday way?

**God is calling us to be faithfully present wherever we are sent**

- + We pursue our neighbors and co-workers
- + We attend to the needs of the people and places we experience
- + We use the simple, everyday tools and opportunities we possess
- + We keep growing as Christ-imitators and model evangelism after him

\*How do you sense that God is calling you to be faithfully present in one of these ways right now?

This week, ask God to help you be fully present in your places and fully present with the people God has sent you to.