

## Life Group Discussion Guide: The Care of God

**Scripture Focus:** Jeremiah 29:1–14

**Core Theme:** God's intentional care for His people in the midst of exile, shifting their focus from escaping their circumstances to flourishing within them.

---

### Ice Breakers: Getting Started

- If you had to move to a completely different city tomorrow, what is the first thing you would do to make it feel like "home"?
- Have you ever planted a garden or a tree? What was the most rewarding (or frustrating) part of watching it grow?
- What is a "win" or a celebration from your week that made you feel God's kindness?
- When you hear Jeremiah 29:11, what is the first memory or situation that comes to mind?
- **In:** What is something that the group doesn't know about you yet?

---

### UP: Knowing Jesus Intimately

*Focus: Our vertical relationship with God and growing in it together.*

1. God tells the exiles to build houses and plant gardens in a land they didn't choose (v. 5-6). How does this challenge your view of "waiting on the Lord"? Does His care feel active even when your situation hasn't changed?
2. In verse 13, God promises: "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." What is something you have been learning about God lately through seeking Him in a difficult season?
3. Life Groups at OPCM study the Bible to know Jesus. How does the "future and a hope" mentioned in verse 11 point us to the ultimate care provided through Christ?
4. What is something you're pretty sure God has asked you to do regarding your spiritual disciplines or prayer life, yet it still needs to be done?
5. What's a small step you can take this week to "seek Him with all your heart"?

---

### IN: Being Known Authentically

*Focus: Intentional friendships and "doing life" together because God designed us as communal beings.*

1. The exiles were told to "multiply there, and do not decrease" (v. 6). How can we as a group help one another "flourish" and grow spiritually right now, rather than just waiting for "better days"?

2. Being "known authentically" involves sharing our realities. What is something currently heavy on your heart regarding your current location or stage of life?
3. How can we pray for those in our group who feel like they are in a "70-year wait" (v. 10) and need a reminder of God's care?
4. What is something you are currently celebrating that demonstrates God's "welfare" or peace (shalom) in your life?

---

**OUT: Making Jesus Known Practically**

*Focus: Consistently looking out to neighbors and friends to make the "rubber hit the road".*

1. Jeremiah 29:7 is a powerful charge: "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf." How can we practically seek the "welfare" of our specific neighborhood or city this week?
2. If we only focus on ourselves, we become an "us four and no more" tribe. How can we look "OUT" to neighbors who don't know that God has a "plan for their welfare"?
3. Who is someone the Lord brings to mind—perhaps a coworker or friend—who needs you to pray for the "peace/welfare" of their household?
4. How might you get to know the needs and prayer requests of your neighbors so you can "bless the city" as Jeremiah commanded?
5. We are called to "make disciples of all nations". How does "seeking the welfare" of your workplace or school open doors to share the hope of Jesus?

**NEIGHBOR DAY:**

- Perry talked about this in his message – and the goal of it to be highly connected to the command in Jeremiah 29. As a group, make a plan to sign up together to help get some projects done around our city!