



1. Introduction to this Study

We continue our series You Do You. By engaging the story of Jeremiah, we have sought to discover our divine design, uncover our true you, and recover our kingdom calling.

In this study, we turn to **Jeremiah 29.1-14**. Here's the big idea: **We have to dream to live if we want to live the dream.**

2. Connecting with One Another

What can result from dreaming about the future?

When have you seen dreaming about the future positively and/or negatively impact someone's life – or even your own?

3. See It

a. **Read Jeremiah 29.1-3.**

In a way, this chapter could be read as “a tale of two cities.” But instead of London and Paris (as in the Charles Dickens novel), this tale of two cities includes Jerusalem and Babylon.

Who remains in the Holy City and who has been “carried into exile” by Nebuchadnezzar? What types of people would this include today?

Why would Nebuchadnezzar single these folks out? How do you think these exiles felt about being in Babylon?

Have you ever been forced to move somewhere or work in an area you didn't want to? How did it feel? Do you feel like you're “in exile” now during COVID-19?

b. **Read Jeremiah 29.4-6.**

In verse 1 it's Nebuchadnezzar who carries the exiles into captivity. But in verse 4 (as well as 7 and 14), God declares that he displaced his people in Babylon! Why would God purposely exile his people in Babylon?

How do you reconcile this seeming contradiction? Can God use nonbelievers – even wicked Babylonian kings! – to fulfill his purposes? Where have you seen others used by God even if they didn't know he was doing so? How have these people impacted your life?

What are the features of God's plan for his people in these verses?

c. In bringing the leaders, court officials, skilled workers, and artisans to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar hopes that they will move into the city and lose their spiritual identity, becoming full-fledged Babylonians (he knows you can try to get rid of



YOU DO YOU



DARE TO DREAM A DIFFERENT FUTURE

people three ways: expulsion, subjugation, or assimilation – but only assimilation works). In **Jeremiah 28**, the prophet Hananiah encouraged the opposite: stay outside of Babylon and fight against it (he even declares that Babylon would fall in two years – see verses 3 and 11).

How are you tempted to assimilate into the worldly ways of our culture? How are you tempted to fight against our culture?

- d. Look again at verses 4-6. What is the third way decreed by God?

Romans 12.1-2 similarly instructs us to be “in the world, but not of the world.” Being in the world is a kind of exile, for our true citizenship is in heaven. With the thought of defeating the Babylonians in two years still fresh in their minds, how do you think the Israelites received Jeremiah’s instruction to settle down? Would that bring them hope or not?

- e. The instruction to “build and plant” in chapter 29 echoes Jeremiah’s call to prophetic ministry and his name in 1.10.

How could the exiles be used by God to change Babylonian culture?

- f. **Read Jeremiah 29.7-14.**

What do you think “prosper” means in this context? What is the relationship between the prosperity of Babylon and the prosperity of God’s people?

What are the features of God’s dream for his people in these verses?

If you were in the exiles’ shoes, do you think God’s dream would sound realistic or more like fantasy? Why do you think that?

- g. In **1st Peter 1.1**, the Apostle Peter calls ordinary Christians “exiles” wherever they live. What are three ways we can practice God’s plan for the exiles of Jeremiah’s day in our own lives today?

- h. In your own words, what is the difference between dreaming and planning?

Are you better at dreaming or better at planning? Why do you say so?

- i. Have you ever tried to get better at dreaming or at planning, but it didn’t go well? If so, what went wrong?

If there was someone in your life to help you become a better dreamer or a better planner, what is the best thing they could do to help you?

Who would you ask to help you that way?



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4. Be It

Author and professor Walter Brueggeman once wrote, "Questions of implementation are of no consequence until the vision can be imagined. The imagination must come before the implementation. Our culture is competent to implement almost anything and to imagine almost nothing."

Quite a statement, don't you think? Do you agree or disagree?

As we continue trying to get a clear view into the true you, we want to tap into our capabilities of visioning. Will Mancini, in *Younique*, writes, "If you are a human being, you are a visionary." Even if you're not quite sure about that, just go with it for now.

Before engaging this week's tools, reflect on previous weeks'. If you missed any study guides click onto gdshp.ch/studyguides.

We have seen how Jeremiah's *name*, his *calling*, and *God's Word through him* in chapter 29 all line up. What does **Your Name** mean? What if God was saying something about who you are through the name you were given!? It happens in Scripture left and right: There's Gideon the "Valiant Warrior" and Peter "The Rock" upon whom Jesus built his church. Here's a personal example:

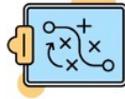
Who am I? I'm **Curtis** = Courteous, **Ashley** = Dwells Among the Ash Trees, **Bronzan** = Son of the Dusty One. To which you would reasonably conclude, "Huh?" A couple quick notes of explanation: First century disciples were encouraged to follow so closely behind that they would "be covered in the dust of their rabbi." Scripture features three prominent trees: In the Garden of Eden, the cross of Christ, and the tree in the new heaven and new earth that exists for the healing of the nations. Reading my name backwards, it becomes **One who follows closely after Jesus** (Son of Dusty One) **telling the whole of God's story** (Among the Trees) **in Consideration of Others** (Courteous). I trust you can see the connection with my life's calling!? (If you're reading along in *Younique*, check out pages 61-63)

A second tool for this week is found at fivefoldsurvey.com, which will help you discern your particular gift for ministry (*Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher*), as described in **Ephesians 4.1-16**. Notice: living into these gifts allows Christ "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ"!

A third and final tool helps you **dare to dream a different future**.



YOU DO YOU



DARE TO DREAM
A DIFFERENT FUTURE

My Name

First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

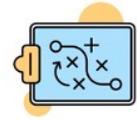
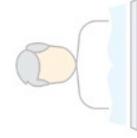
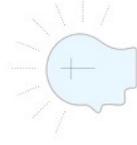
How I interpret the meaning of my name: _____

How it clarifies God's call on my life: _____

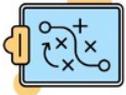
Five Fold Survey

The body of Christ may be built up... and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ through my God given gift of _____. Which of the following roles are exciting to you?

Apostolic	Prophetic	Evangelistic	Shepherding	Teaching
Founder	Activist	Messenger	Caregiver	Sage
Designer	Politician	Salesman	Defender	Professor
Cultural Architect	Advocate	Negotiator	Peacemaker	Philosopher
General	Aid worker	Journalist	Helper	Scientist
Agent-Envoy	Poet	Recruiter	First responder	Guide
Visionary	Reformer	Promoter	Servant	Debater
Adventurer	Iconoclast	Achiever	Healer	Engineer
Strategist	Hacker	Marketer	Coach	Researcher
Innovator	Liberator	Champion	Counselor	Legal worker
Pioneer	Environmentalist	Storyteller	Human resource	Accountant



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Area of Life	What's Good Now	What's Not So Good Now	My Dream Three Years From Now
Personal Wellness			
Relationships			
Work			
Recreation			

