

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, February 26th, 2017

Obstacles to Movement: Culture (Jeremiah 29:1-14)

Sermon Recap: Travis said that in the ocean of culture, there have always been three main responses: float with the current, fight against it, or flee from it. But God offers a fourth option through Jeremiah: faithfulness *in* the culture. Seeking the “shalom” of the people around you and finding your own “shalom” through it – this is the constructive work he has called us to. God has a construction team on the ground...and it's you!

1. Travis began by relating how living in culture is like swimming in the ocean. How have you felt the currents of culture pulling at you?
2. Looking at the passage, what is God's heart for his people who are lamenting their surroundings post the destruction of their home? What is God's heart for the people they now live around?
3. Travis mentioned the heavy use of imperative commands in verses 5-7. Verse 7 stands as the foundation for all God wants his people to do. What commands are specifically given in verse 7? What is the promise if we are faithful to do these things?
4. What new meaning can be seen in verses 11-14 considering the Israelites knew they were going to spend their whole lives in Babylon?
5. What is your first reaction to cultural trials? How can you be faithful in those challenges?
6. Where do you struggle with the paradigm of “the Chapel should...?” How can you move from institutional thinking to a new paradigm of faithfulness, a paradigm of “I am W.C. Chapel?”
7. Have I embraced the community that I am in?
8. How can your small group seek the wholeness (shalom) of those around you together? What should be the first step according to verse 7?