



Reference: Jeremiah 29:4-7

Study Guide #1

September 11, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Remind those who attend Salem about the change in service times and ask them, if possible, to park in the lot on Martling Avenue to leave room for those who are new to Salem

-There are still opportunities to serve on the Worship, Hospitality and Children's Ministry Teams. Group members can get more information by calling the church office or by speaking to a pastor.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever experienced being a part of a team with no vision and direction or where everyone was united and worked toward a common goal? What was that like? Contrast the two experiences.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Salem's Purpose is to "Love God and love people." Why do you think it's important, as a church and as an individual to first love God and then love people? Read 1 John 4:7-12.

- 2) Salem's Mission is to "Impact the City and Change the World by Making Disciples and Multiplying Churches." Read Matthew 28:18-20. What are all believers called to do and what does the Lord provide to enable them to fulfill His "Great Commission."

- 3) There are four important aspects of a healthy spiritual life for a disciple. Why do you think each one is important? What steps have you taken and how did you benefit when you took those steps?
 - a. Connect in Worship
 - b. Grow in Small Groups
 - c. Serve on Teams
 - d) Go...

- 4) The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and left the city and surrounding area desolate. The leaders of the nation were taken to Babylon to be trained in the ways of that empire. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7 to learn what God told Jeremiah (he remained in Jerusalem) to write those taken to Babylon.



- a. What is an exile and how do you think it would feel, as a believer in the one true God, to be in exile in Babylon? (Remember the language, customs, religion, money, holidays, dress etc would be completely new).
 - b. How did the Lord want His followers to live in Babylon?
- 5) Most of us have not been exiled to a foreign nation but as believers we don't always feel like we fit into our society or our city. Reread Jeremiah 29:7. What is God's promise to those who find themselves living in cities?
- 6) According to Matt Carter there are 4 approaches to ministry in New York City. Describe what they are; which is best and how can Salem Church serve New York City in that way?
- a. Salem can be a church **IN** New York City
 - b. Salem can be a church **OF** New York City
 - c. Salem can be a church **AGAINST** New York City
 - d. Salem can be a church **FOR** New York City
- 7) When challenging situations and circumstances arise in the city how can we know that God is with us? Read Psalm 139:17-18a and Matthew 6:25-33.