

# FOR THESE CITIES. FOR ALL PEOPLE.

## STUDY GUIDE.

*Love These Cities. 10.12.25*

### **Message.**

God calls His people to actively love their cities by seeking their "shalom"—their complete well-being, peace, and welfare—not because the cities are inherently good, but because He is good. This requires building strong, Christ-centered families and relationships within the community rather than withdrawing into isolation, as the flourishing of the church is directly tied to the thriving of the city. This mission perfectly reflects the heart of Jesus, the ultimate exile who left heaven to enter our broken world and seek our peace even while we were His enemies. Because God demonstrated such love for humanity, believers are now sent with that same purpose: to love their cities through intentional prayer, consistent participation, and sacrificial partnership, building a bridge for the next generation to find Jesus and see the region transformed for God's glory.

### **Prayer.**

Heavenly Father,  
Open my eyes and heart to the transforming power of Your Word.  
Amen.

### **Scripture.**

Jeremiah 29:4-14

### **Engage.**

#### The Original Recipients

Verses 5-6. Why would the command to "Build houses and plant gardens" be initially crushing, and what long-term hope did it force them to adopt instead?

Verse 7. What did God command and how did this radical command redefine the scope of God's plan beyond Israel's immediate national interests?

Verses 10-11. The 70-year timeline meant current adults would die in exile. How did this delay shift the focus of God's promise ("hope and a future") from personal survival to the preservation of their community?

Verses 12-13. With the Temple destroyed, what was the profound spiritual assurance in the promise that they could "call upon me and... pray to me" in a foreign land?

#### For Us Today

Verses 5-6. What does the command to build and plant mean for how we should intentionally invest in our community right now?

Verse 7. How can we practically "seek the welfare" (peace and prosperity) of the Quad Cities (schools, workplaces, neighborhoods) in ways that go beyond mere verbal evangelism or humanitarian services to a true gospel-driven response toward Christ-centered love and genuine civic contribution?

Verse 11. How does knowing God's plan is fulfilled through long-term faithfulness and patience challenge our modern expectation for instant results in our spiritual lives or church work?

Verse 12-13. In what subtle or overt ways does a modern post-Christian culture present opposition to our faith here, and how does the assurance of God's accessibility (vv. 12-13) empower us to live faithfully within it?