



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

It's All About Relationships | May 7, 2023

Summary

We, the faithful followers of Christ, have the same purpose and responsibility in our day as the Jewish people had in Babylon. We and our families are to be a light in a dark world to those who are seeking hope.

Scripture

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
-Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)

If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink. You will heap burning coals of shame on their heads, and the LORD will reward you. -Proverbs 25:21-22 (NLT)

This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare." This is what the LORD says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you," says the LORD. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land." -Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-14 (NLT)

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." -John 13:34-35 (ESV)

Let's Start

Who was your first best friend?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

1. Pastor Dale gave some principles to help you and your children thrive in these days:
 - God encourages us by letting us know that He is in control no matter what our circumstances are!
 - God reminds us that though we may feel captive by the culture, He has not forgotten us!
 - God wants you and me to build healthy relationships in our families so we can build healthy relationships with those who are not in His family yet!
 - God wants us to be a strong, safe and loving community of believers towards each other.

How can we fully embrace these principles?

2. How do the words in the Jeremiah passage encourage and help us live and raise families in the 21st century?
3. What are things to keep in mind with your unbelieving friends?
4. Pastor Dale suggested four ways to demonstrate a Christ-like friendship to unbelievers:
 - Model satisfaction and joy in the Lord consistently.
 - Pray for your friend passionately.
 - Serve your friend with humility.
 - Share with your friend appropriately.

How have your unbelieving friends reacted to your demonstration of Christ-like friendship?
5. Pastor Dale said, "When you show your enemies love in return for their meanness, you are giving them the greatest demonstration of how powerful the gospel really is. You are showing them just how satisfying the love of God is in your life and how joyful you must be that you would show kindness instead of vengeance." Do you have a personal example of this?
6. What types of people should you avoid having relationships with?

