



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Rethink*

Scripture: *Jeremiah 29*

Date: March 16 & 17, 2019

Message: *Rethinking Hope*

—[LET'S START]—

This has been a big week for Wooddale Church. Last week our congregation voted overwhelming in favor of moving forward with Vision 22: Center of Hope. This weekend, we collected commitment cards from our church family for people to support that vision through prayer and finances.

When you think about our world and the hope that it so desperately needs, what comes to your mind? Where do you see evidence that the world needs the hope that can only come through the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? As a group, take some time to pray. Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work, and pray about the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. In his sermon, Pastor Dale asked, "Do you know the feelings of being homeless and hopeless? If you're a true follower of Christ, there should be something within you that makes you feel like a stranger who is out of place in this world. The Apostle Peter says that in this world we are, 'Exiles' (1 Peter 1:1; 2:11)." Have you experienced the feeling that this world is not your home? How do you live as someone who is out of place in the world?
3. Pastor Dale mentioned that many Christians and churches tend to deal with living in the world through *fortification*, *domination*, or *accommodation*. He suggested that none of these are good options. Why do you think it is so easy to slip into these patterns? Why are these slippery slopes for the church?
4. Read Jeremiah 29:4-14. How did God encourage the Israelites to live when they were captives in a foreign land? What are some of the lessons for us?
5. What are some passages in the Bible that have brought you comfort as it relates to the hope that you have in the Gospel?
6. What could some of the barriers to the Gospel be in Eden Prairie, Edina, Loring Park and 7 Corners? How about in the 5 countries in Asia that we are working in where 99% of the people don't know Jesus?

Not in a Wooddale teaching based LifeGroup? Visit wooddale.org/LifeGroups/ to get involved!

—[LET'S ACT]—

This week, let's close our time together by praying for each of the campuses of Wooddale Church and for our global partners around the world.

Dale said that we want to bring the "Shalom of God" to communities near, and far. Let's commit to being ambassadors of God's hope.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Tim Keller suggests that our whole culture is so fragmented that none of us feels at home.
- Three typical ways Christians and churches deal with living in this world – none of them are right:
 - Fortification
 - Domination
 - Accommodation
- God gives us a clear strategy for living in the now when our hope waits for us in the future!
- Evan Koons writes, "We are being called by God to spend the remainder of our days serving our captors, working with them (not fighting them or conforming to them or fleeing from them—but serving them) and compromising nothing. It's rooted in the belief that all of our vocations (family, work, public service, education, art, and more) matter."
- God tells us:
 - Whatever your circumstances, seek Me first! – Jer. 29:13
 - Embrace your circumstances! – Jer. 29:5-6
 - Integrate and live for the welfare of the community – Jer. 29:7
 - Earn the right to say, "No!" – Daniel 1-3
- Look at the example of Jesus:
 - Jesus was exiled from the presence of His Father. He left the Garden of glory and came to this earth.
 - Jesus was a stranger while He was here, He never felt at home.
 - Jesus embraced His circumstances.
 - Jesus sacrificed His life for the Shalom of the world.
- God has a plan for you and for Wooddale Church.

—[NOTES]—
