



WEEK FIVE | FOR THE FLOURISHING OF THE CITY

Look Back

10 Minutes

- In her sermon on September 29 on Luke 6:12-19, The Jesus Way, Pastor Courtney observed that Jesus begins in verse 12 by looking to God in prayer. What is helping you in your prayer life? What is hindering it? What will you do about it?
- Pastor Courtney quoted from 2 Corinthians 3:16-18. The passage speaks of us being transformed into Christ's image. What does this look like in your life? How does your transformation look different from a year ago?
- Also, Pastor Courtney said that while the culture pulls us towards the sin of individualism, Christians should be communitarians. We need community, and the community needs us. Discuss your involvement in community at
- FPC and how it helps you and others transform into greater Christ-likeness.

Read Aloud

Jeremiah 29:4-14

Head

Observe the text and the author's main points (15-20 Minutes)

1. What does God command the Israelites to do while they are in exile?
2. What are the Israelites warned against in verses 8 and 9?
3. What will happen after the Israelites have lived in exile for 70 years?

Heart

Envision how the text—when applied—might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors (15-20 Minutes)

1. God does not stop working during the exile. How does knowing God is working and has a greater plan impact the way you think about your own personal challenges and things you see in the news?
2. God calls the Israelites to thrive and be distinctive among a culture that does not understand or know them. Do you think your faith makes you appear different in a secular culture? How or how not?

Hands

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others (10 Minutes)

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Is there anything in your life where you have pushed God out and taken habits and an identity apart from Him? Discuss with your small group, and pray for God to help you identify those areas and how to live differently.
- Pray through Romans 8:31-39 with your group and then each day this week. Think about God's work in the story of the Israelites and the promise described in Romans.
- What are ways that you can build and plant for the flourishing of Houston, without being changed by the culture? What are practical ways to do this?

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Is there a group that has caught your attention for which you want to seek their welfare? Consider supporting a ministry for that group or reaching out to them yourselves to share time and listen. To find opportunities to serve for the flourishing of Houston, contact Madi Weir, Missions Coordinator, at mweir@fpchouston.org or visit fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities.
- **October Neighborhood Connect For Your Zip Code** - Invest in your FPC neighborhood community by joining October fellowship gatherings. If you have not received your invitation, go to fpchouston.org/neighbors for details pertaining to your zip code.
- **Saturday, October 12, 9am - 3 pm; LC 181-185. Guest Experience Event** - The FPC community will learn from Vision Consultant Shawn Reilly how to expand our mission to welcome guests warmly and well. Look for registration details soon.

Reaching Beyond

- **Fall Alpha** - Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the world. In a sense, the world has come to Houston, and many who have come have questions about spiritual matters. For those interested in learning more about Jesus or have questions about him, Fall Alpha is a great place to start. FPC Alpha will meet for six weeks (October 31 - December 12) from 8-9 AM in the Solarium with breakfast provided. For questions or to register, go to alpha@fpchouston.org.
- **Nov. 15-18, 2024 Micah Graduation Trip; Honduras** - A team from FPC will attend the Micah Project graduation from high school, eighth grade, and vocational school. The team will see

first-hand the ministry at the Micah Project campus and join staff on street outreach. For more information, contact Mary-Floye Federer at mfederer@fpchouston.org.