



## Part 3: PLANS TO PROSPER Jeremiah 29.11-13

### **Key Points :**

Jeremiah 29.11 is a much loved (and quoted verse) but is it actually specifically for us? Context, interpreting Scripture with Scripture and applying what we learn is again a good starting point here:

**Context** - Jeremiah wrote directly to a rebellious nation in exile, not directly to us (Jer 29:1-10). In the previous chapter Hananiah spread false good news (2 years captivity instead of 70), and sometimes we chase after the same (i.e. that all will be good and we'll prosper).

**Scripture:** Christian living promises persecution rather than everything being easy (e.g. 2 Tim 3.12, Phil 1.29). **The good news isn't that God saves us from our trials, it's that He saves us from our sins.**

But when we read on to verses 12 and 13 in our passage we see promises that **are** for us because they are echoed elsewhere in Scripture. When you call on Him, He will hear your cry. When you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you. When you seek Him, you will find Him.

**Apply:** Call on God, draw near Him and seek Him. Make this a daily habit.

### **Questions:**

#### **Conversation Starter**

1. Before this weekend, where have you seen Jeremiah 29:11? (e.g. a coffee cup) How did it make you feel?

#### **Start Thinking & Sharing**

2. How has your perspective of God been impacted by this message?
3. Why do you think we like to read Jeremiah 29:11 without context?
4. Share about a time when God revealed Himself to you in the middle of a trial.
5. What plans do you have for God that you need to swap with His plans for you? What are you up against that you need to see God's good plans in? Pray together for God to reveal Himself to you this week.

#### **Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.**

6. God, we've gotten too good at putting our words in Your mouth. Forgive us for putting our plans ahead of Yours. Will You instead put Your words in our hearts? Will You reveal Yourself to us this week as we seek out and live out Your good news for the world?

#### **Start doing. Commit to a step, and live it out this week.**

7. Pray daily for God to reveal Himself to you and one other person you choose to pray for.