

Small Group Discussion Guide

Pray & Go – Week 5: Blessing Your City

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4–7

Big Idea: God’s plan for us to thrive includes building a life rooted in community and actively blessing our city.

Opening (10 minutes)

- Icebreaker: Share about a time you received a letter, email, or message that completely surprised you (good or bad). How did it affect your perspective or your day?
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Digging into Scripture (20–25 minutes)

Read Jeremiah 29:4–7 aloud together.

1. What stands out to you most about God’s instructions to the people while in exile?
 2. How do you think the exiles might have felt when they heard “build houses, plant gardens, settle down”?
 3. Verse 7 calls them to “seek the peace and prosperity (shalom) of the city.” What do you think “shalom” looks like in our community today?
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Connecting the Message (20 minutes)

1. Pastor MaryAnn shared that God’s plan wasn’t just for survival but for God’s people to *thrive*. What’s the difference between *surviving* in your faith and *thriving* in your faith?
2. The first point of the sermon was to **build a healthy way of life**.
 - What does it look like to be *rooted* in your neighborhood, workplace, or community?
 - How can building relationships help us thrive personally and spiritually?
3. The second point was to **seek to bless the city**.
 - Why is it sometimes difficult to care about the city we live in, especially beyond our immediate circles?
 - How might blessing our city reflect God’s heart for all people?
4. In the sermon, we heard stories of how something as small as writing a note of encouragement made a big difference. Can you recall a time when someone’s simple act of kindness had a big impact on you?

Application (15 minutes)

- This week's challenge includes two steps:
 1. **Invest in a relationship.** Who is one person God may be prompting you to encourage or reconnect with this week? What specific step will you take (call, note, text, coffee, prayer)?
 2. **Write a note to a community leader.** Who comes to mind—a teacher, firefighter, principal, or council member—you could encourage? Take a moment to brainstorm together. If possible, write down names right now and commit to taking action this week.

Prayer (10 minutes)

- Invite group members to share something brief about their "one" person or for the leader they plan to encourage.
- Close by praying for San Diego/Tierrasanta (or your local community). Ask God to bring shalom—peace, healing, and flourishing—to your city.

Optional Group Activity

Small group leader: Bring paper and pens to your small group. Spend the last 10 minutes writing a short note of encouragement to a community leader together. Pray over the notes before sending them.