

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

10. What is one thing you know God is leading you to do, but you are avoiding? What step will you take toward obedience this week?

11. How can we help each other keep our focus on the hope we have in Christ in the midst of the hard things God asks us to walk through?

Prayer Requests

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April 3, 2016

Sermon Notes

The Jonah Syndrome: We Run First

Jonah 1:1-16

N_____ seems to like God's Plan

1. Jonah didn't like P_____

2. The Sailors didn't like P_____

3. We often don't like G_____ P_____

Genesis 3:5
Romans 7:21-25

**A_____ our A_____ to God's
Plans and A_____ them is the first step
toward experiencing G_____ P_____**

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

April 3, 2016

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

1. At various points in our lives, God asks us to face hard things. What is the most recent “hard thing” God has put in front of you? How did you react to His plan?

2. When God’s plans for us are hard, we respond in a variety of ways. What are some of the fears and aversions people have in these situations?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ JEREMIAH 29:1-14.

3. What situation do we encounter in Jeremiah 29? What was going on in Judah, and what was Jeremiah writing to say?

4. What would you say is the major message of the letter that Jeremiah sent? What parts of the letter do you imagine they enjoyed? Which parts do you think they might have had an aversion toward?

5. How do you think the exiles probably felt about God’s plans for them in those moments after hearing the letter?

6. The beginning of verse 8 seems to anticipate some objections on the part of the exiles. What objections do you most often raise to avoid accepting God’s will?

7. In God’s plan there is always peace. We may not like His plan, but we will experience His peace if we walk in obedience to Him. Read Jeremiah 29:11-14 again. What promises did God make to His people in the midst of their exile? What do these promises mean to you as you walk through His hard plans today?

8. Both Jonah and Jeremiah were ambassadors for God in a land that was hostile to their beliefs. What is one experience you have had or story you have heard recently that reminded you we also live in a land hostile to Christianity? What does it cost us to follow God’s plans even in this place?

9. God wanted the Israelites to cling to Him during their 70 years in exile. Only as we grow deeper in our relationship with God are we able to embrace His plans wholeheartedly. What types of spiritual practices help deepen our relationship with God? Which need special attention from you this week?