

Small Group Guide

Jeremiah Series | Week 6 | Jeremiah 25-29

October 11, 2026

Big Idea

God's judgment is real, measured, and long, and the real battle during times of discipline is a battle over which word will rule us — the true Word of the Lord or the words of false prophets.

Before You Meet

Read Jeremiah 25-29 on your own before the group gathers. As you read, note any moments where you feel resistance, discomfort, or unexpected hope. Bring those observations to the conversation.

Key Takeaways

****1. God's judgment is deliberate, measured, and real.****

The seventy-year exile was not random. It was a precise, purposeful response to 490 years of disobedience. God does not act in haste, but delayed judgment is not cancelled judgment.

****2. The deepest crisis among God's people is always a crisis of whose word they will believe.****

Every person lives under the authority of some voice. The question Jeremiah forces us to answer is whether that voice belongs to God or to the culture around us.

****3. False prophets consistently promise shorter roads than God has appointed.****

Hananiah told the people what they wanted to hear. He offered restoration without repentance and freedom without discipline. His message was popular and completely wrong.

****4. Resistance to God's chastening can turn wooden yokes into iron ones.****

Refusing to submit to God's lighter discipline does not remove the discipline. It deepens it. Refusal to receive correction creates greater bondage, not greater freedom.

****5. God's people are called to faithful presence in difficult places.****

The exiles were not told to rage, panic, or assimilate. They were told to build, plant, pray, and seek the welfare of the city where God had placed them. Principled presence, not passive accommodation.

****6. God's plans lead through fire but never finally away from His faithfulness.****

Jeremiah 29:11 is a covenant promise, not a personal success slogan. It was spoken to people already in exile. Hope and discipline are not opposites in God's economy.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Think about the voices that most shape how you see the world right now — news, social media, friends, family, culture. Which of those voices do you find yourself trusting most instinctively? Why?

Digging Into the Text

2. The pastor pointed out that God warned Judah repeatedly for twenty-three years before judgment came. What does that pattern of patience reveal about God's character? How does it challenge the assumption that silence from God means approval from God?

3. The seventy-year exile was directly connected to 490 years of neglected sabbath years. God's discipline was measured and purposeful, not impulsive. How does understanding that precision change the way you think about difficult seasons in your own life or in the life of the church?

4. Nebuchadnezzar is called God's servant in Jeremiah 25, even though Babylon was a pagan empire. What does it mean for your faith that God is sovereign enough to use even ungodly people and institutions for His purposes? Where do you find that truth comforting, and where does it create tension for you?

5. The pastor said, "People will put up with generic spiritual performance, but they become hostile when the true Word of God starts to threaten their game playing." Have you seen this in your own experience — either in others or in yourself? What does that hostility reveal about what we actually treasure?

6. Hananiah broke Jeremiah's wooden yoke publicly. It was dramatic, it felt like a victory, and it was entirely wrong. God's response was to replace the wooden yoke with an iron one. Where do you see modern versions of Hananiah's message — promises of quick relief, easy restoration, or freedom without repentance — showing up today?

7. The pastor noted that both Jeremiah and Uriah preached the same faithful message, but Uriah was executed while Jeremiah was spared. He said, "God's faithfulness isn't dictated by earthly outcomes." How does that truth sit with you? Does it encourage you or unsettle you? Why?

8. Jeremiah 29:11 is one of the most quoted verses in modern Christianity. But in context, it was written to people already living in exile, with seventy years of discipline still ahead of them. How does understanding the context change the way you read and apply that promise?

Connecting to Christ

9. The pastor closed by pointing to Jesus as the true Prophet whose Word never fails, the One who was exiled on the cross so that we might receive restoration. How does the story of Jeremiah and the exile help you understand more deeply what Christ accomplished on our behalf?

Practical Applications

****This Week, Choose One:****

- ****Audit the voices.**** Take an honest inventory of the five to seven sources that most shape your thinking and decision-making. For each one, ask: Is this voice moving me toward God's Word or away from it? What would it look like to reorder your intake?

- ****Sit with a hard passage.**** Read Jeremiah 25:1-11 slowly and prayerfully. Ask God to show you where you may have been assuming that His patience means His approval. Write down what comes to mind.

- ****Practice principled presence.**** Identify one specific place in your life — your neighborhood, your workplace, your school, your city — where God has placed you. Pray for the welfare of that place this week, as the exiles were commanded to do, even if it is a place that feels hostile or discouraging.

- ****Examine your yoke.**** Is there an area of your life where you have been resisting God's correction? Consider whether that resistance has been making things lighter or heavier. Bring it honestly before the Lord in prayer and, if appropriate, before a trusted person in your group.

- ****Read Jeremiah 29:4-14 in full context.**** Before reaching for the comfort of verse 11, read the surrounding verses carefully. Write a few sentences about what the promise actually means when you hold the whole passage together.

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray together as a group over these specific concerns:

- That God would give each person the courage to receive His Word fully, without editing out the parts that are uncomfortable.

- That your group would have the discernment to recognize false voices that promise easy roads and quick restoration.

- That God's people in your church and community would learn to live with faithful presence — building, planting, praying, and bearing witness — wherever God has placed them.

- That each person would trust that God's plans, even when they lead through discipline, never finally lead away from His faithfulness.

Jeremiah Series | Week 6 of 12