

Make Yourself at Home

By Chip Borgstadt



Jeremiah delivered God's word to elders taken into exile—"build for the future." Consider what God is calling you to do at this point in your life.

For

Adult/Couple

Season

Spring

Needed

Bible, Internet-connected device, willingness to step out in faith and try something new



by [abhikrama](#)

Prepare in Advance

Mark your Bible at Jeremiah 29:1-7

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin:

*God, guide our exploration of your holy Word, and allow us to enjoy each other's company as we do.
Amen.*

2. Read Jeremiah 29:1-7 from your Bible or the text at the end of this activity.
3. Consider the situation when Jeremiah sent this letter: The Israelites had been taken from their homeland by the conquering Babylonian army and were living in exile in Babylon. Jeremiah, a prominent prophet who had stayed in Jerusalem, sent this letter to the exiles via a messenger. Imagine the thoughts and feelings that went through the hearers' minds as they were told to "make yourselves at home." This probably was not what they were hoping to hear—they were longing for God to strike down the Babylonians and let them return home to Jerusalem. God's word, delivered through Jeremiah, was clear: their wellbeing was tied to the wellbeing of the community in which they were living as exiles.
4. Ponder together what it means to "make yourselves at home" and seek the welfare of the community in which you live as you await the fulfillment of God's kingdom. Discuss some challenges in your community. Don't worry about practicality, be bold.
5. Glean wisdom from others who have dared to dream that they may be the answer to someone's prayers. View some of these stories:
 - Serving others: [Serving Others Serves You](#)
 - Serving a specific population: [Serving Others: One Mission of Ricky Lane](#)
 - Social entrepreneurs: [What Is A Social Entrepreneur?](#)
 - Community involvement: [What Is Community Involvement?;](#) [Community Service Volunteers](#)
6. Choose a small step to take to serve others—to "seek the welfare of the city" where you live. Set a date to begin. Pray for continued guidance and wisdom and the courage to let God take your small step to a greater level.



Jeremiah 29:1-7

¹These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ²This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. ³The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said:

⁴“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

