

# Living The Dream

Text: Jeremiah 29: 4-14

## The Plain Truth

God's dream for you may not be fulfilled  
\_\_\_\_\_ but it will be \_\_\_\_\_.

1) Who do you \_\_\_\_\_?

2) Whose dreams are you \_\_\_\_\_?

3) What is God's dream for \_\_\_\_\_?

### One Year Bible Reading

Apr. 19: Joshua 19:1-20:9, Luke 19:28-48, Psalm 88:1-18, Proverbs 13:12-14

Apr. 20: Joshua 21:1-22:20, Luke 20:1-26, Psalm 89:1-13, Proverbs 13:15-16

Apr. 21: Joshua 22:21-23:16, Luke 20:27-47, Psalm 89:14-37, Proverbs 13:17-19

Apr. 22: Joshua 24:1-33, Luke 21:1-28, Psalm 89:38-52, Proverbs 13:20-23

Apr. 23: Judges 1:1-2:9, Luke 21:29-22:13, Psalm 90:1-91:16, Proverbs 13:24-25

Apr. 24: Judges 2:10-3:31, Luke 22:14-34, Psalm 92:1-93:5, Proverbs 14:1-2

Apr. 25: Judges 4:1-5:31, Luke 22:35-53, Psalm 94:1-23, Proverbs 14:3-4

**April 18 & 19, 2015**

# Living the Dream

Life Group Lesson • Week of April 19

Jeremiah was a true shepherd. He showed great courage during one of the darkest times of Judah's history, the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. He faithfully spoke God's truth even though he was continuously derided, called a traitor, mocked, falsely accused, physically mistreated, and scorned by those in positions of leadership—those who were supposed to be rightly shepherding God's people.

Jeremiah was never himself deported to Babylon, but he continued to send the Lord's messages to the captives as directed by the Lord's Spirit. Even in exile some of the Judean captives continued to ignore and scorn Jeremiah's words, yet there were those who did listen and believe. God says your captivity will be a long one—70 years—but do not dwindle away, for one day I will bring you home again.

## Read Jeremiah 29:1-23

It is sad that God's chosen people who had once entered the beautiful land promised them by God (during the days of Joshua) were now being driven out because of sin. Since the days of Moses, God had warned Israel of the grave consequences of sin and wickedness (see **Deuteronomy 28:36-37,49-52**). Yet, it seems they turned a deaf ear. Years of corruption and idolatry had led to Israel's fall (defeated by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.) and now Judah's in 586 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar.

1. The wages of sin is death, according to Romans 6:23a. How have you seen this principle to be true in your life (either in your own experience, or in the world scene)?

As a thinking individual, why does it make good sense to turn from that which leads to demise, death, and defeat?

Most people want to live. But too often, the pull toward this world and the insatiable desire to satisfy our flesh tricks us into believing we can go our own way and still find eternal life. That's simply not true. Jesus said, "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

2. Look closely and compare the following passages: **Jeremiah 17:9-10** and **Psalms 103:8-14**. Are you glad the Lord knows your heart, secret motives, and desires? (why or why not)

Because the Lord knows us, He doesn't lead us down a garden path. He is a good Shepherd and will always reveal truth against the backdrop of grace. What does He say about Himself in **John 10:11-18**?

Living the dream means living the truth. Sometimes it's hard to look into the mirror and see the actual condition of our souls, but God wants us to know the truth for it is the truth which will set us free. Through the Lord Jesus we can come before God and admit our weakness, faults, and failures. He already knows the condition of our hearts—that is why He sent Jesus to save us. Is Jesus your Savior *and* Lord? He alone can help you turn from the obstacles keeping you from life. He alone can lead you to the "right paths, bringing honor to His name" (Psalm 23:3).