



Group Content

Renewal: The Resilient Week 1

Beginning Prayer

Start your group by asking God and His spirit to move in your time together. While God is always with us, something special happens when we communally ask Him to move in our time with others. Pray and ask God for His Spirit to uncover the struggles and discomforts that reside deep within you.

This Week's Topic: The Resilient Remnant

This week we began our discussion of Renewal; a series about discovering gospel resilience. Every year, we declare something over our church. 2021 has been declared the year of Renewal. God is the author of renewal, and He invites us to be a part of that to a world that desperately needs it. Before we can see the world culturally renewed, we must first acknowledge our own personal need for God's renewal. It must start with us. It must start with the Remnant.

This means that] anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17

This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."

Jeremiah 29:4-7

This is what the Lord says: "You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."

Jeremiah 29:10-14

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20



The Remnant is what is left after exile. Exile helps reveal the blind spots in ourselves and our culture. The biggest lie we could believe is the idea that God would never want us to be uncomfortable. When we strive to live comfortably, we protect the idols and apathy in our lives, and we resist the renewal that God wants to spark in us and through us. Sometimes exile is in store for God's people. Exile is uncomfortable, but exile helps to refocus the mission at hand and see the spaces where we may have wandered. Sometimes we can even wander without realizing it. The Israelites were taken from their home and put in a foreign land. They were charged to build families, pass along the ways of the Lord, and contend for the new city they resided in. They could rest in the promise God gave them – to be with them and one day return them to their homeland. Resilience is built into the remnant. And after the exile, there is renewal.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Read through 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does it mean to have a “new life” in Christ?**
- 2. What do you think exile looks like for Christians today? What do you think is the mission at hand for us?**
- 3. Has there ever been a time where you've felt like a foreigner in your own land as a Christ-follower?**
- 4. Have you ever confused comfort for God's blessing? Or confused struggle with the absence of God? How does the context of Jeremiah 29:11 help clarify this?**
- 5. How does Jeremiah's prophetic word to Israel parallel with Jesus' words in Matthew 28?**
- 6. Are there any idols you need to give up? Do you have any apathy that God has been prompting you to move beyond?**

Weekly Practical Steps

Start each day by asking God what He wants to renew in you personally. Cultural renewal cannot happen before personal renewal. As God reveals this to you, posture yourselves in surrender and repent of any idols that are uncovered in your own life. Next, contend and pray for your community. God will break your heart for what you pray for. Ask God in prayer how you can contribute to cultivated peace in the community.

Ending Prayer

We believe that prayer ignites movement, and that community should be surrounded in prayer.

Pray for the Spirit of God to be with you as you wrestle and contend for your community. Ask God to protect and guide you through spiritual warfare. Ask for His Spirit to illuminate truth to you and direct you to what's next.