



Engaging to Bring Prosperity

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you"—this is the Lord's declaration—"plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Main Point: While it may seem like culture is swallowing up what is left of our Christian values, we must trust God's plan involves prospering us and bringing hope to those around us.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Are you planning to vote in the November election? Why or why not? (Remember: safe zone!)

Do you feel Christians have a special interest in the civic process? Explain.

Have a Volunteer Read Jeremiah 29:11.

Many evangelical Christians have given up on making a difference in the civic and political arena. Our nations morality is being effected because of our surrender to the culture surrounding us. The world is getting increasingly dark, but God hasn't called Christians to quit shining a light. It is our job, armed with the truth, to engage culture through the civic process.

God's plan for us involves **PROSPERING.** (v. 11)

The Jewish people, God's chosen ones, were currently in captivity in a foreign land. How does their situation relate to current day Christians? Would you see them, and us, as a prosperous people?

Read **Malachi 3:2-4.** A refiner of precious metals will use fire to burn away impurities to create a purer form of gold or silver for instance. If we are the thing being purified, what does this imply will be part of the process?

What does this tell you about the hardships you and our nation are currently facing right now? What personal things in your life and in our nation need to burn away to align with God's truth over our lives?

The Hebrew translation of *prosper* is "to complete." How will God prosper, or complete, us when we choose to engage in the civic process of our nation? What does **Malachi 3:4** say will be the result of our purity and obedience to God?

God's plan for us also involves **HOPE**. (v.11)

Has there ever been a time in your life when someone gave you false hope? Share your experience.

Read **Jeremiah 29:10**. Did the Lord give Israel a false hope about their time in Babylon? How has He been honest with us about our lives as Christians?

What did God instruct the people do to under the circumstances? Read **Jeremiah 29:4-7**. What would happen if the Jewish people had given up hope in Babylon?

Read **Romans 4:18**. What was Abraham hoping for and how does his story give you hope for what you are going through today?

Paul says in Romans 5 "suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." How does this scripture apply to our citizenship here, as well as in heaven? (**Phil. 3:20**)

Pray:

As you close your time together pray for our nation. Pray for our leaders in local, state, and national offices. Ask God to give you wisdom for how to engage personally in our civic process to bring hope to our nation. Pray that God would prosper us as we serve others and look to Him for our meaning and purpose in all aspects of our lives.

Connect:

Call the church office (803.419.0989) or email info@blythewoodvillage.com to see where you can get plugged into Civic Ministry today!