



## Part 4

### *His Ways For Your Future*

May 21, 2017

**ICEBREAKER:** What is something in your present that you would have never believed would have been in your past?

#### **MAIN POINT:**

**God's Thoughts and Ways for Your Future  
Are Better than Your Thoughts and Ways for Your Future**

#### **EXPLORATION:**

1. **Read Isaiah 55: 8-9. What do you think this passage means? How do you think this key verse relates to you and your future? Dream a little and picture what your future will be like if this verse comes to pass.**

*(Context Clues- The word "ways" means really everything about what you do. The word "thoughts" means really everything about what you think . דֶּרֶךְ [dereh / deh-rek/]way, toward, journey, manner, direction, habit, course of life, moral character. **What You Do** מַחְשָׁבָה [machashabah, makh-ash-aw-baw/] thought, device, purpose, work, imaginations, plan.*

#### **What You Think**

*Discuss how thoughts and ways are related.)*

2. **Read Jeremiah 29:11-14. What do you think these verses mean? How do these verses relate to Isaiah 55: 8-9? What do these verses say about your future? Do you think this promise is for us or just for the people of Jeremiah's day?**

*(Context Clues- God promises the people of Israel a bright future if they will seek Him. The circumstances that you will see in the next question make clear that Israel was not experiencing these promises at that time. While the context of this passage*

indicate that this promise was prophesied by Jeremiah for Israel, the principles behind the promise are echoed repeatedly throughout Scripture and are true for us today if we choose the Lord's thoughts and ways instead of our own thoughts and ways).

- 3. Read the summary points of the book of Jeremiah below. How do you think these circumstances relate to Jeremiah 29:11-14? (Scan through the book of Jeremiah and read the chapter and section headings to see the overall context and tragic situation that the nation of Israel was in during Jeremiah's time.)**

*(Context Clues- The promise behind Jeremiah 29:11 will be a reality if we choose God's thoughts and ways. The horrors of the circumstances of the entire book of Jeremiah will be our reality if we insist on going our own way.)*

- **Israel forsakes the Lord**
- **Prophets are lying- they say only good things will come**
- **Jerusalem refuses to repent**
- **There is Famine, War, Sickness, and death**
- **70 years of captivity promised**
- **Jeremiah is commanded not to marry or have children or they will die 16:1**
- **Jeremiah imprisoned and thrown in a cistern**
- **King Zedekiah blinded and murdered**
- **Jerusalem falls**

#### **APPLICATION:**

- 1. Interact with the following two statements:**

**A. Our way and the world's way offer us:**

- **What experiences and upgrades have to offer**
- **What you want naturally and immediately**

**B. The road less traveled offers you:**

- **What you value ultimately**
- **What God has for you**

- 2. Read the following bullet points and have each person tell which one has the most relevance for their life right now and have them tell why.**

- **If we always get our way we lose our way**
- **If you always do what you want to do you wind up where you do not want to be**
- **Lurking in the shadows of what you want is what we value**
- **Don't trade the ultimate for the immediate**
- **Don't trade valuable for natural**

- 3. Pray for the series Above and Beyond. Pray that as a church we would seek God's thoughts and ways for our future and not settle for our own thoughts and ways.**