

Bottom Line:

Know Jesus,

Know Peace

Often Dave uses concepts and ideas from a variety of resources when writing a message. If you have any questions regarding these sources, please don't hesitate to contact Dave at daves@senecacommunitychurch.com.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the "Think It Over" section.

Think It Over

This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

Quick review: As you review the message guide, what are some take-aways that really touched your heart? Why do you think they registered with you?

Diving in:

- When you hear the word prosperity, what do you think of? How have Christians allowed the American Dream to become connected to the idea of Jeremiah 29:11? How would you explain that to a Christ follower in China or North Korea?
- Read through the five translations of Jeremiah 29:11. What sticks out to you? How would you include all the different nuances in one paraphrase like Dave did? Why is important to look at a number of translations? What better words are there beyond the NIV's "prosper"? How can that rendering stir Americans especially in a direction not intended by Jeremiah's God-inspired letter?
- Review each ☞ ? point. What are your take-aways for each one? Explain the "Who," the "What," and the "How." Describe what a person ought to do with each one?
- How would having more "Wholeness and Completeness" in your life change your life? Who could you point in the direction of the "Wholeness and Completeness" that comes from saying yes to Jesus?

Next Steps: How will you know the peace of knowing Jesus and be active in sharing that knowledge with others this coming week?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

"I have good plans for you. I don't plan to hurt you. I plan to give you hope and a good future.

Jeremiah 29:11 E2RV (ERV)

"I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.

Jeremiah 29:11 MSG

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Jeremiah 29:11 KJV 1900

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare (peace, wholeness) and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

My thoughts and focus for you are good plans. Plans to care for you and never abandon you. They are plans for your welfare, your peace, your wholeness, your completeness. There is no evil or harm in these plans for you. You may not be feeling it, expecting it, but these plans are to give you a future that is whole, absolute, total, and finished! Now without hesitation be released to live in that hope for today and forevermore!

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV, E2RV, KJV, ESV, DFS

The "American Dream" cannot be validated by Jeremiah 29:11.

Do we get how far the American Dream is from God's dream for us? How small, shallow, and empty it is?

If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.

C.S. Lewis

Jeremiah 29:1–14 NIV page 538

➔ Who is Wholeness and Completeness for?

➤ It is not for the well-adjusted in this world.

(Jeremiah 29:16-19, 22)

²Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Romans 12:2 MSG

³You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food—catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. ⁴They'll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages.

2 Timothy 4:3–6 MSG

➤ It is for those not at home in this world.

(Jeremiah 29:5-7)

¹Greetings from Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ. To God's chosen people who are away from their homes—people scattered all over...

1 Peter 1:1 E2RV

¹⁷You pray to God and call him Father, but he will judge everyone the same way—by what they do. So while you are visiting here on earth, you should live with respect for God.

1 Peter 1:17 E2RV

¹¹Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul.

1 Peter 2:11 MSG

“Babylon” is used to refer to the whole world system opposed to God.

(Revelation 17 & 18)

➔ What is Wholeness and Completeness?

Prosperity is the condition of being successful or thriving; especially economic well-being.

Webster

Peace is wholeness, harmony, fulfillment, and unimpaired relationships with others and God.

Theological Wordbook of the O.T.

¹⁰This 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.

Jeremiah 29:10 NLT (also see the life of Daniel and Ezekiel 24)

If we are in close relationship with our living God, we need never fear evil. We always have a future and a hope as God controls the future, and He will keep and guard His child.

(see Isaiah 40:22-24, 40:11; Jeremiah 29:12-14; Isaiah 9:6-7)

³³I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world.”

John 16:33 MSG

➔ How is Wholeness and Completeness lived?

➤ Recognize that this promise is for Christ followers.

²⁸“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. ²⁹Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. ³⁰Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Matthew 11:28–30 MSG

➤ Delight that this shalom promise is for captivated Christ followers.

⁴Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

Psalms 37:4–5 ESV