

Returning to the New

Session 1



'I will bring you home again'

Jeremiah 29:10-14

UP: Introduction

- Have you ever lived away from home for a long period of time? How did it feel? What were the challenges and opportunities?
- When you returned home after this time - what were your experiences and emotions?

IN: Explore

READ: **Jeremiah 29:10-14**

Context:

God's people had been uprooted from their homes in Jerusalem, they are forced to live in a foreign city - a season of disruption, disorientation and displacement. Their whole world had changed - EXILE. This season lasted longer than anyone had expected... now 70 years have passed they are on the brink of returning to the new (Ezra 1:1).

These words of Jeremiah are spoken to God's people in that place of exile:

This is quite a familiar passage - read it again and as you do put yourself in the shoes of those exiles who are hearing it for the first time:

What words would have been an encouragement to you? Why?

What words would have been a challenge to you? Why?

What does this passage say about the nature of the God we worship?

How does this passage speak to you now?

OUT: Impact

- Who do you know who needs to return 'home' (a place of safety, security, love, acceptance, welcome)
- What in the passage we have read is stirring you to pray
- Take time to pray into these areas now