

ONE

WEEK 4

LIFE GROUP
FACILITATOR GUIDE

// Announcements // Upcoming Events

Remind your group that baptisms are coming up on March 15th at all campuses! They can sign up at newbreak.org/events

Jeremiah 29:4-7 // Beyond the Horizon: ONE - Week 4

// Week 4 // Main Emphasis: Beyond the Horizon

Welcome to week four of our church-wide study “ONE.” Over the past few weeks, we have begun to see and understand how God wants to use Newbreak Church as a whole and each of us individually to accomplish His purposes. While we are all called to glorify God and make disciples, God gives individual people and individual churches unique ways of partnering with Him to carry out His plans. In week one, we talked about Newbreak’s unique mission statement: *connecting people with God through authentic relationships to serve communities*. This mission defines what we are doing; it is our compass. In week two, we talked about our strategy for engaging this mission. It is our flashlight that shows us the path to take and has three parts: we begin our week in worship, belong together in life groups, and “be the church” by serving both inside and outside its walls. Last week we discussed our measures; they are our target. Measures describe the characteristics in the life of an individual who is accomplishing the mission and there are four of them in each of the three categories of our mission statement (12 total).

Before we get to the last side of the vision framework, we want to pause and ask, “Where are we going?” The answer to that lies with “Vision.” Vision gives us a glimpse at the picture inside the frame and shows us where God is taking us individually and as a church in the coming days, weeks, months and years.

Here at Newbreak, God has always worked through us in two main areas. First, He has used us to serve our communities in ways that make a real difference in them and transform the lives of those we interact with. We call that “Targeted Transformation.” Second, God has given Newbreak a heart to intentionally raise up others around us, helping them to grow into the men and women that God has called them to be. We call that “Leadership Development.” So we believe God’s 20-year vision for Newbreak is to work through each and every one of us individually to bring about Targeted Transformation of our communities and intentional Leadership Development of the people in our lives. But this isn’t just a vision for our church; it is a vision for each of our lives.

// Opening Prayer // 7 minutes

FACILITATOR NOTE: Open this week by praying for God to do a mighty work through this study and that we will be united as ONE church focused on ONE mission.

// Lean In // 7 minutes

Pull out your vision framework, and as you look through the twelve measures we discussed last week, share with the group the measure you most want to work on this year, and share any practical ideas you have for growing in it.

// Look Down // 10 minutes

The pastors taught a message this past weekend that came out of Jeremiah 29. That part of the Bible records words God spoke to His people who had been taken into captivity to Babylon. God instructed the people on how He wanted them to live life in that foreign community. He also wanted to encourage them in the ways they could use their lives to make a difference in the world around them – even when they were subject to enemies who had taken them captive.

Read aloud Jeremiah 29:4-7

This passage speaks to both areas of the vision that we believe God has for Newbreak. Let's talk about Targeted Transformation first. That concept is found in verses 5 and 7. God wanted His people to build houses, settle down, plant gardens, pray for their communities and seek the prosperity of the city in which they were exiles. It is interesting that God allowed His people to be taken into captivity in Babylon, and even though it was only temporary and it was a place where people did not even like them, He wanted to use them there.

QUESTION 1: *When we talk about “communities,” we are referring to all the different environments in which we work, live, serve and play. As you think about all the places you go to in the course of a month, what are the specific “communities” to which you belong?*

// Look in // 15 minutes

It has been said that most people tend to overestimate what they can accomplish in one year, and underestimate what they can accomplish in ten years. This is true in our lives and in our communities as well. Some of us are called to live, work, play or serve in a community for a short time; others of us are called to communities for life. Either way, we all have the ability to show others in our community the love of God and to serve them in ways that can draw them to Christ.

QUESTION 2: *Whether you have lived in your neighborhood or been at your job for your whole life, or are just passing through for a couple years, what is one thing you think God might like most about your “community?”*

QUESTION 3: *What is one thing about your “community” that you think might make God sad?*

// Live it Out // 15 minutes

COMMENTARY: God has placed us where we are so that we can make a difference in our communities and transform them with the love of Jesus. Just as God meets each of us individually where we are and then transforms our lives with His radical love and grace, He wants us to do the same in our communities. Jeremiah 29:7 says, “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile...” The inventor of the stethoscope once famously said, “Listen to your patients – they are telling you how to heal them.” The same is true of our communities—they will tell us what they need, if we will listen. Starting from there, we can find ways to serve them and ultimately show them the redeeming power of our God.

QUESTION 4: *What are some small steps you can start taking to get to know your community so you can begin serving them for Jesus?*

FACILITATOR NOTE: To help your group answer this question, here are examples of some practical steps they can take:

- Determine to intentionally get to know the neighbors on either side of your home.
- Choose opportunities to be out in your front yard or on your street or in other common areas in your immediate neighborhood.
- Read community newspapers, websites, and blogs.
- Join community social media groups.
- Listen to what local business owners talk about.
- Attend community events (holiday festivals, concerts, movies in the park, cleanup days, etc.).
- Ask community leaders what they perceive the biggest needs to be (principals, counselors, police chiefs, politicians, Chamber of Commerce members, etc.)
- Shop at grocery stores in your community; eat at restaurants in your community.

// Look Down // 10 minutes

The second part of God’s vision for Newbreak is Leadership Development. God also had that same vision for His people while they were in captivity. Look again at Jeremiah 29:6 and read it aloud once more.

The idea behind God’s instruction to “increase in number there” was that God wanted His people to increase their influence in Babylon – a city that was far from God. His direction was for the Israelites to intentionally grow while living there, to raise up sons and daughters and help them become who God wanted them to be, and for them to have vibrant lives so that they could continue to have influence with others.

This idea of intentionally developing others is found throughout scripture. Read aloud 2 Timothy 2:2.

Remarkably, there are four generations represented in that one verse: Paul, Timothy, reliable men and women, and others. It seems that God cares about using each of us to develop those around us.

QUESTION 5: *Why do you think God wants to use each of us to build up leaders around us instead of designating just a few expert leaders to develop everyone else?*

// Look In // 5 minutes

Leadership Development can sometimes sound like a huge project that is not for all of us, or beyond our current skill set or that will just require more time than we have to give. But remember, any time we seek to influence the thinking, behavior or actions of others, we are being leaders. In that way, we all have the ability to lead and develop those around us.

QUESTION 6: *When you think about your own life, has someone like a teacher, a mentor, a coach, or a boss ever been an impactful leader to you? If so, what difference did that make in your own life?*

// Live It Out // 5 minutes

Because we all live, work, serve and play in different locations and with a huge variety of people, we all have unique opportunities to lead others. Each of us has a voice in the lives of certain people that no pastor, preacher, or bible-teacher will ever reach.

QUESTION 7: *As you think of your own ability to lead others, is there someone you might see on a regular basis in one of your “communities” that you can possibly connect with more intentionally? If so, what step could you take this week to begin intentionally investing in his or her life (e.g. inviting him or her out for coffee or a meal, going to the gym together, arranging for your kids to play together)?*

// Key Memory Verse //

Jeremiah 29:7, “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

// Look Up // 10 minutes

FACILITATOR NOTE: Take some time to share any prayer requests. As you close this week, take time to pray for our city and our communities and our city leaders. Ask God for the courage to identify and reach out to others who need us to speak into their lives and encourage them to grow into the men and women God calls them to be.