



# 1 Youth Ministry

## Grades 7-12

### October 22, 2022

### In the world but not of the world

#### Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items

We are still collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

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**This Week's Bible Verse**

#### Jeremiah 29:4-11

<sup>4</sup> This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup> Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not

### Last Sunday



#### In the world but not of the world

Last Sunday, we talked about how we can be living **IN** the world but not **OF** the world.

We started in **John 17** where Jesus talks about us being **IN** the world but not **OF** the world just as He was **IN** the world but not **OF** the world. He also says that He sent us into the world just as God sent Him into the world.

We said that just as Jesus was sent into the world for a purpose, He then sent us into the world for a purpose. We said that our purpose is basically to live **IN** the world to bring others to Jesus.

Jesus lived within His current culture and society, following societal rules and rituals, as long as they didn't go against God's way. He spent time with sinners and evil men but did **NOT** sin Himself. He shared meals with tax collectors and counseled prostitutes yet never judged them or condemned them. He loved them as God loves us and was with them without participating in their sinful actions.

Just as Jesus did, we are not called to restrict our

decrease.<sup>7</sup> 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.”<sup>8</sup> Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have.”<sup>9</sup> They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord.  
<sup>10</sup> This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.”<sup>11</sup> 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.

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associations to only Christians or sinless people. Instead, we are called to live IN and among the unbelieving world as witnesses to Jesus Christ.

We are certainly made separate from the world through Jesus but if we stay only with others who are separate from the world and remain completely separated from unbelievers, as the Pharisees did, we can never fulfill our purpose to bring unbelievers closer to God. We could become like modern day Pharisees.

Just as we talked about last week about being in God's peace, with the Holy Spirit in us, we can always choose to be unaffected by the worldly situations because we are not OF the world. We can live IN the culture and society of the world and choose to not be affected by it or to be a part of it.

We looked deeper at **Jeremiah 29** where God was speaking through Jeremiah to the Israelites who had been taken into exile in Babylon. God tells them to live IN the land they have been brought to (or be IN the world) but also to keep their faith and to not practice their sinful ways (or to not be OF the world).

We talked some about a teenager named Daniel who was one of those forcefully taken from his family and his culture but was able to live IN his new world and be raised to high levels of the Babylonian Kingdom while also making time to pray to and to worship God and never participating in any Pagan rituals or practices.

We said that God wants us to be IN the world to learn to live as Jesus did while He was in the world and to also bring others to Jesus Christ.

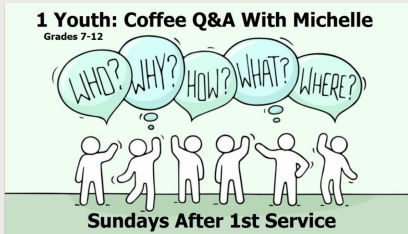
Just as our nation's ambassadors are commissioned to live in a foreign country for some time representing their home nation, so are we as Christians called to live for a time in this world to represent God's Kingdom to unbelievers.

We said we can know when we start to venture into being OF the world instead of being just IN the world in the same way that we can be at peace in the midst of chaos. By the Holy Spirit in us.

Generally speaking, if something doesn't "feel" right in your spirit then it's probably not right or at the very least it's something worth asking about. No matter what, always feel free to ask and to lean on the Holy Spirit for wisdom, discernment, and for guidance.

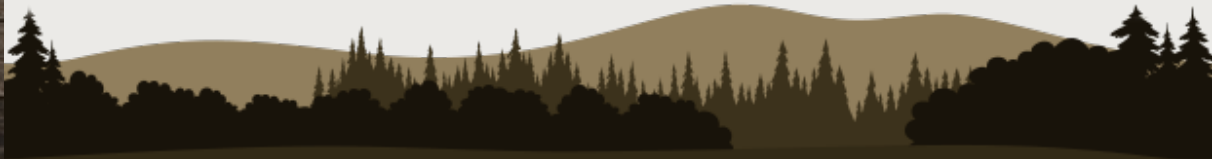
So, as Christians, we are not only free to spend time

around unbelievers, we are called to be **IN** the world of unbelievers without expressing judgement or causing shame but to be a witness for Jesus Christ and to be God's representatives on Earth to open others eyes to His truth by our own actions **IN** the world.



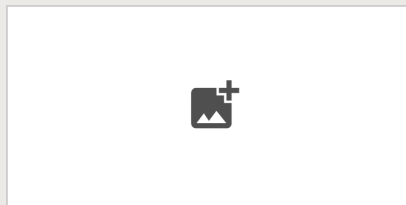
## **NEW!!!** Coffee Q&A with Michelle has moved to **Sundays!**

Join us in the **Youth Room** every **Sunday**, after 1st service, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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