

See the Future Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Are you a planner? Explain.
2. What is one way your life is different than you expected it would be 5 or 10 years ago?

Read the following passage: Jeremiah 31:2-6.

In this passage God speaks to six realities that had devastated the Israelites: the loss of rest; the destruction of the nation; the silencing of celebration; the uprooting of vines and fields; the announcement of the invading conqueror; and the destruction of the temple. These were very real experiences and memories that had traumatized the Israelites. For each of these areas of devastation, God gives fresh vision and hope. God didn't want the Israelites to just have a vague sense that the future might be better, he wanted them to see it and feel it.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you have hope for the future that is energizing you in the present? Explain. What are some of your hopes for the future?
2. What circumstances, relationships, experiences, or realities most commonly obscure your hope for the future?
3. Do you regularly think about life after death? Describe your thoughts and feelings concerning the afterlife.
4. In the ESV, Jeremiah 31:2 states: "Thus says the LORD: 'The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness...'" This is a reference to the generation of Israelites who wandered in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. Can you think of difficult moments in your life that God helped you make it through? Explain.
5. Read Jeremiah 31:3. Why was this significant to the generation of Israelites to which God first delivered this message? How is this significant for us and our future?
6. In this passage, the Lord gives the Israelites vision around six big themes: 1) rest (in the holistic sense), 2) rebuilding (nation and family), 3) celebration, 4) fruitfulness, 5) reunion and reconciliation, and 6) worship (that is, relationship with God). In which of these areas do you think God might want to give you fresh vision? Explain.

Pray