

# The Invitation

## For Our City

### LifeNotes

## TALK IT OVER

### Main Ideas

Praying for our cities and communities invites God's power and trusts His plan.

### Key Scriptures

*This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 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 decrease. 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.* Jeremiah 29:4-7

**You are where you are at this time, on purpose; for God's purpose.**

**Don't let your past or your possible future keep you from God's plans for your present.**

### When we accept God's invitation to pray for our cities we will:

- **Be salt**

*You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.* Matthew 5:13 NLT

- **Be light**

*You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.* Matthew 5:14-15

- **Be present**

*... for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.* Philippians 4:11

### Start talking.

- Joel said, "Too often we fall into the trap of divorcing purpose from place." What did he mean by that? How have you seen that?
- What are some of the problems with the "grass is greener" mentality?

### Start thinking.

- Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. Why were the Israelites in exile? Who led them there?
- Why might they have been resistant to living fully where God had placed them?
- In what way were they to seek the "peace and prosperity" of the city God had placed them in?

### Start sharing.

- Read Matthew 5:13. How can you be a preserving force through prayer in your city/community?
- Read Matthew 5:14-15. How can you be "light" in your city/community through prayer?
- Read Philippians 4:11. What might keep you from being fully present and content with where God has you?

### Start doing.

- This week pray for your city/community.
  - Pray for its preservation.
  - Pray for its hope and salvation.
  - Pray for its leaders. Specifically look up the email address of your local Chief of Police and send her/him an email letting them know you are praying for them.

### Closing prayer.

Jesus remind us to pray for the city and communities you have placed us in. Lord preserve lives and liberty, bring hope and salvation, and help us to be fully present where we are. Jesus we also pray for our local leaders. Give them wisdom and courage to lead and serve well. We ask you to bring peace and prosperity to our cities through our prayers.