

Name: _____

Student Guide

2020

Generation Next Bible Study Guide



Unit 3, Lesson 9

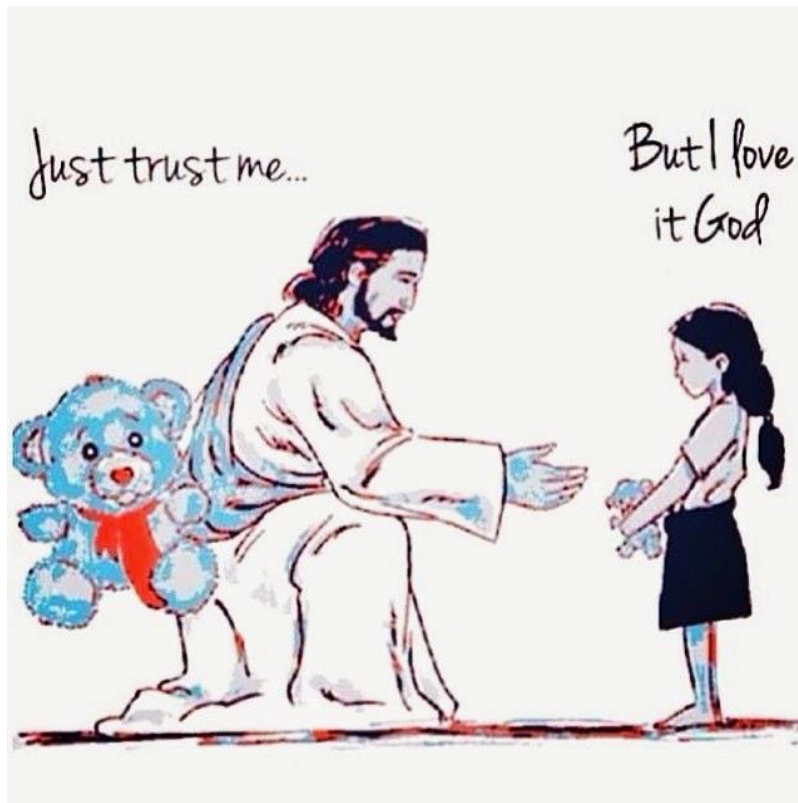
Peaceful Believer's Church

3/22/2020

Illustration

Look at the illustration below.

What does the picture tell us about what God would like to bless us with? How do you know?



March 22, 2020

▪ BIBLE STUDY GUIDE 9

MORE IN STORE

Background Scripture: Jeremiah 25:3-7,9

Printed Text: Jeremiah 29:4-14 |

Devotional Reading: Deuteronomy 30:3-5

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **ACKNOWLEDGE** that God has a plan for each person's life; **APPROACH** our current situation differently knowing that God has a good future planned for us.

In Focus

It was an announcement that none of them expected, but the words flowed out of their dad's mouth so smoothly and matter of factly, "We're moving to Missouri next month and will begin a new life there." Chris, Christina and Carone looked at each other with doom in their eyes. Their freshman year in school had just started and they had their own friends that they didn't want to leave. As triplets, it was hard for them to find an individual set of friends, they always found themselves sharing friends; but now they had their own friends that matched their individual personalities.

They knew this was an opportunity dad couldn't pass up: he was now the Vice President of sales for the company he worked for since before they were born. He seemed so assure of what was in store. *How could he know this would be a good start for us? How does he know our lives, as we know it, wouldn't end when we left Fort Pickens?* The triplets kept their doubts silent but struggled to display excitement as they waited to move to the other side of the country. One day their dad and mom sat them down to discuss the move. "Look, we know you all are not excited about the move, but we promise, it will all work out to be something great for us all. Hey, we've got a surprise for you..." The triplets looked in bewilderment as their parents opened a large paper with a blueprint of a house. Their parents showed them what they would be moving into: an 8-bedroom, 7-bathroom mansion on a hill with a game room, theater, and pool. This was much bigger and better than their current 4-bedroom rental house. They looked in amazement and unbelief. "Is this real?" they all chimed in unison. "Yes, and it's only a taste of what God has in store for us!" their parents reassured.

Keep in Mind

"For I know the thoughts that I have for you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

(Jeremiah 29:11 ESV)

Focal Verses

ESV

Jeremiah 29:4-14

⁴“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ^[a] ⁹for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.

¹⁰“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare ^[b] and

not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

The People, Places, Times, and Concepts

King Nebuchadnezzar. One of the most infamous kings of Babylon. Known as God’s servant even though he held the people of God captive for 70 years in Babylon. He stole all of the treasures in the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, captured all of their intellectuals and workers and left the city in ruins. But God used him to carry the people away to a foreign land where they would learn to appreciate God and serve Him and Him alone.

Exile. The state of being barred from one’s native country, typically for political or punitive reasons (Dictionary.com).

Background

The Lord commissioned Jeremiah to be a prophet, or God’s mouth piece, to the nations.

God gave Jeremiah over 23 years of prophecy to speak to God's people and the governmental officials that reigned in Judah and Jerusalem. The messages were bold, direct, and dooming. The messages called for the people of God to repent and obey God's commands to serve Him and Him alone, but the people repeatedly disobeyed. In Jeremiah 25:3-7, the Lord told Jeremiah to tell the people that He kept sending a message of correction to them through His servants and time and time again, they continued to disobey Him. As a result, he declared in vs. 8-9 that He would send enemies, through King Nebuchadnezzar to drive them out of their current land and He would destroy the land. At the time of our text, the people of Judah were exiled to Babylon and would serve the King of Babylon for 70 years.

In the text

I. Exile Instructions (Jeremiah 29:4-6)

Jeremiah received a message from the Lord to tell the people who were exiled in Babylon. The Lord's message was direct and specific: He wanted them to get comfortable with being in exile because they would be there for 70 years, not two years like they had been told by others. He instructed them to build homes, marry, create families and work the land as if it was there own because they wouldn't be leaving any time soon. This message had to be discouraging for the people of Judah who were under King Nebuchadnezzar's rule. Even though they were in bondage, God still reassured them that He had a provision waiting for them in that land and they were to seek or receive the welfare of that city. Even when in a situation or a

place we don't like, God is still providing for us and has a plan for us! If we learn to depend and trust in God, we will overcome the current affliction we face and experience the promises of God that await us.

How can you look at the positive of a situation less favorable and see the hand of God working on your behalf?

II. Not God's Words (Jeremiah 29:7-9)

Nehemiah wasn't the only per proclaiming, "Thus says the Lord!". Other men were also claiming to be prophets. Some of the men were telling the people of Judah that their exile was temporary and then would remain in bondage for only two years. This message gave the people hope that their struggle and separation from God would be brief. This is the message the people wanted to hear, but that wasn't the message God had for them. God's messages for this generation of people spoke against their behaviors and declared them to be disobedient to the commands of God; there was no sugar coating it...God was not pleased with them. God had already warned Jeremiah that the messages he would give the people would not be received by them because it wasn't something they would desire to hear. There are times when what we want to hear is not good for us; we need to hear the truth and receive correction. God called out their lies and told Jeremiah plainly, "I have not sent them". Translation: Don't believe anything they have said to you because I have not told them to tell you anything! It's critical that we only speak what God tells us to say.

What is God telling you to tell others? (hint* everything He wants us to say is already in His Word, the Bible).

III. **Good News, Good Future (Jeremiah 29:10-14)**

Great news from our God, “after your 70 years is up, I will restore you and you will receive all that I promised you!” There was the hope they were to hold on to, God would restore. To some, this is encouraging and will help them move forward even though they don’t like their current condition; but to some, it’s discouraging because they don’t want to live through the 70 years. During the 70 years, the people would draw closer to God and get to know Him for the great and wondrous God He is; the 70 years would prepare them for the great things God had in store for them; and the 70 years would allow their families to grow large and strong for future generations. There was so much promise in the 70 years, but many of the people didn’t see it that way. God revealed to them that He was the **ONLY** one that knew the plans for their lives, because He was in control of their lives—and He only had good things in store for them.

Search the Scriptures

1. 2 Corinthians 1: 20 ESV reads, “For the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.”

What does this scripture reveal about God’s promises? Can we rely on what God has promised us?

2. 1 Chronicles 16:34, Ezra 3:11, Psalm 25:8 and Mark 10:18 are just a few scriptures that remind us the fact that the God we serve is good.

Why is it important for the believer to know that God is, indeed, good and not evil?

Vision at Work

The next step in walking in vision is recognizing God’s sovereignty in creating purpose for our lives. The only way to discover the purpose for your life, is to ask the One who gave you life and established its purpose before your conception—God.

Purpose is aligned to God’s provision and His ultimate plan for the redemption of humanity. It all brings glory to His name. Oftentimes we can discover our individual purpose through the provision or gifting God has given us. Take this time (this month) to pray and ask God to reveal the gifting (provision) He has already established in your life. Observe and reflect on the passions and talents he placed inside of you. Make a list and spend time in prayer asking God to show you the purpose He has for your life and how you can continue bringing glory to His name.

Notes
