



FAITH *and the* BALLOT

A 6-WEEK BIBLE STUDY SERIES

MONDAYS

SEPT 28 – NOV 2

6:30 PM

KINGDOM COVENANT CHURCH

17357 KLINGER ST. DETROIT, MI 48212



Would You Rather?

COLOR 1 • GREEN

**Hold it up for the first
choice**

COLOR 2 • ORANGE

**Hold it up for the
second choice**

Grab one of each color. Vote, and be ready to tell us why.

WOULD YOU RATHER • 1 OF 6

COLOR 1 • GREEN

**Move away for your
dream job**

COLOR 2 • ORANGE

**Stay home with a
regular job**

WOULD YOU RATHER • 2 OF 6

COLOR 1 • GREEN

**Your dream house in a
city you don't like**

COLOR 2 • ORANGE

**A small apartment in a
city you love**

WOULD YOU RATHER • 3 OF 6

COLOR 1 • GREEN

**Know all your
neighbors by name**

COLOR 2 • ORANGE

**Have the best house on
the block**

WOULD YOU RATHER • 4 OF 6

COLOR 1 • GREEN

**Wait 10 years for
something great**

COLOR 2 • ORANGE

**Get something good
right now**

WOULD YOU RATHER • 5 OF 6

COLOR 1 • GREEN

**Pray for the people you
love**

COLOR 2 • ORANGE

**Pray for the people who
get on your nerves**

WOULD YOU RATHER · 6 OF 6 · THE BIG ONE

COLOR 1 · GREEN

Hear the hard truth

COLOR 2 · ORANGE

Hear a nice lie

LAST WEEK • MICAH 6:8

The Verdict from Last Week

Do what is right

Love mercy

**Walk humbly
with your God**

And we put that verdict on the map of 48212.

LAST WEEK • YOUR MICAH 6:8 CARD

How Did You Handle the Verdict?

Justice

One thing I will DO this week to make something right

Mercy

One person I will show steadfast love to this week who is not a family member, and why

Humility

One way I will walk with God this week, and not ahead of Him

Which one do most of us open first?

WHAT YOU

WANT to hear

WHAT YOU

NEED to hear

JEREMIAH 28:1-2 (NLT) • 1 OF 7

One day in late summer of that same year—the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah—Hananiah son of Azzur, a prophet from Gibeon, addressed me publicly in the Temple while all the priests and people listened. He said, **2** “This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: ‘I will remove the yoke of the king of Babylon from your necks.

JEREMIAH 28:3-4 (NLT) • 2 OF 7

3 Within two years I will bring back all the Temple treasures that King Nebuchadnezzar carried off to Babylon. **4** And I will bring back Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the other captives that were taken to Babylon. I will surely break the yoke that the king of Babylon has put on your necks. I, the Lord, have spoken!”

JEREMIAH 28:5-7 (NLT) • 3 OF 7

5 Jeremiah responded to Hananiah as they stood in front of all the priests and people at the Temple. **6** He said, “Amen! May your prophecies come true! I hope the Lord does everything you say. I hope he does bring back from Babylon the treasures of this Temple and all the captives. **7** But listen now to the solemn words I speak to you in the presence of all these people.

JEREMIAH 28:8-9 (NLT) • 4 OF 7

8 The ancient prophets who preceded you and me spoke against many nations, always warning of war, disaster, and disease. **9** So a prophet who predicts peace must show he is right. Only when his predictions come true can we know that he is really from the Lord.”

JEREMIAH 28:10–11 (NLT) • 5 OF 7

10 Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke off Jeremiah's neck and broke it in pieces. **11** And Hananiah said again to the crowd that had gathered, "This is what the Lord says: 'Just as this yoke has been broken, within two years I will break the yoke of oppression from all the nations now subject to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.'" With that, Jeremiah left the Temple area.

JEREMIAH 28:12-14 (NLT) • 6 OF 7

12 Soon after this confrontation with Hananiah, the Lord gave this message to Jeremiah: **13** “Go and tell Hananiah, ‘This is what the Lord says: You have broken a wooden yoke, but you have replaced it with a yoke of iron. **14** The Lord of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: I have put a yoke of iron on the necks of all these nations, forcing them into slavery under King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I have put everything, even the wild animals, under his control.’”

JEREMIAH 28:15–17 (NLT) • 7 OF 7

15 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah,
“Listen, Hananiah! The Lord has not sent you, but the
people believe your lies. **16** Therefore, this is what the
Lord says: ‘You must die. Your life will end this very
year because you have rebelled against the Lord.’” **17**
Two months later the prophet Hananiah died.

TONIGHT'S THOUGHT

Dealing With the Hard Truth

Every prophetic word is not always good news.

JEREMIAH 29:4–14

CONTEXT

Their Deployment was for Their Development

WHEN

597 BC

WHO CARRIED THEM OFF

King Nebuchadnezzar

WHO WAS TAKEN

**The king, the leaders, the
craftsmen (29:2)**

WHO SENT THEM

“the captives **he has exiled”
(29:4)**

Has God ever moved you out of your comfort zone to build something in you?

CONTEXT

Their Displacement was not a complete Detachment

God could have cut them off. Instead, He sent them His word.

THE LETTER

**From Jerusalem to the exiles in
Babylon (29:1)**

HAND-CARRIED BY

Elasah and Gemariah (29:3)

When you were in a hard place, how did God still get His word to you?

CONTEXT

The Tale of Two Prophets

HANANIAH • JEREMIAH 28

Two years

Broke the wooden yoke off Jeremiah's neck to prove it

JEREMIAH • JEREMIAH 29

Seventy years

Hananiah died that same year (28:17)

Why is it easier to believe the voice that says it'll be over soon?

WELCOME TO BABYLON

THE PROPHETIC SHOWDOWN

Two prophets. Two timelines. One letter.

JEREMIAH 28-29

PROPHET #1 • HANANIAH'S MESSAGE, PARAPHRASED FROM JEREMIAH 28

"Good news! **Don't unpack!** In two years, tops, you're going home!"

Read it with feeling!

PROPHET #2 • JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE, PARAPHRASED FROM JEREMIAH 29

"Unpack your bags. This is going to
be **seventy years**. Build, plant, and
pray."

Read it with feeling!

VOTE WITH YOUR COLOR

Which prophet would you rather believe?

GREEN • TWO YEARS

ORANGE • SEVENTY YEARS

THE LETTER ARRIVES • JEREMIAH 29:4-6 (NLT)

This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem:

“Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. **Multiply! Do not dwindle away!**”

BUILD

Unpack the suitcase. Stack the boxes.

PLANT

Plant the seed.

MULTIPLY

Bring someone up. They bring one more.

THE LETTER • JEREMIAH 29:7 (NLT)

And **work for the peace and prosperity of the city** where I sent you into exile. **Pray to the Lord for it**, for its welfare will determine your welfare.”

Everyone up front: turn to the map of 48212 and pray for the city.

This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: **“Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you.** Do not listen to their dreams, because they are telling you lies in my name. **I have not sent them,”** says the Lord.

JEREMIAH 29:8–9 (NLT)

THE LETTER • JEREMIAH 29:10 (NLT)

This is what the Lord says: “You will be in Babylon for **seventy years**. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again.

Settle down. This is going to be a while.

THE KEY PASSAGE • VV. 5-6

We Must Cultivate in Captivity

Build

Plant

Multiply

Captivity cannot hinder growth **unless you allow it to!**

What are you building, planting and multiplying in this season?

THE KEY PASSAGE

Cultivating in this Current Economy

29,000

jobs added in
September

4.2%

unemployment, and
rising

3.0%

paychecks up, while
prices rose 3.4%

+27%

gas, compared to a
year ago

BUILD

A skill, a budget, a small
cushion

PLANT

Our children, savings,
businesses in 48212

MULTIPLY

Share rides, pool resources,
teach a skill

What's one way we can cultivate together in this economy?

THE KEY PASSAGE • V. 7

Seek the Peace of the City

Hebrew: shalom · your NLT says “peace and prosperity”

Peace is the result of hard work. And you can't get to peace and prosperity from a God you don't talk to.

What work are you putting in to keep the peace where God has placed you?

DON'T BE DECEIVED – DEVELOPING OUR DISCERNMENT • VV. 8–9

“I have not sent them,” says the Lord.

Don't have the kind of itching ears that will cause you to believe anything other than what God is telling you.

Where do you hear voices stirring up emotions in God's name?

DEVELOPING OUR DISCERNMENT

How to Test a Prophetic Word

The Word	Does it agree with what God has already said?
The Sender	Who sent it, and who profits from it?
The Turn	Does it call me back to God, or just tell me what I want to hear?
The Fruit	Does it come to pass and bear good fruit?
The Body	Does it build up, encourage and comfort the church?

TONIGHT'S BIG IDEA

**Every prophetic word is not
always good news.**

**But every word from God is good
direction.**

THE KEY PASSAGE • V. 10

A Few ‘Blessed Assurances...’

“I will come...”

Rescue

“...all the good
things I have
promised...”

Recovery

“...I will bring you
home again.”

Restoration

Which one do you need tonight: rescue, recovery or restoration?

GOD'S PLAN, GOD'S PROMISES · EVERYONE READ TOGETHER

For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord.
“They are **plans for good** and not for disaster, to give
you **a future and a hope.**

JEREMIAH 29:11 (NLT)

Why does it matter that verse 11 comes right after verse 10?

SEEKING GOD WHOLEHEARTEDLY • VV. 12–13 (NLT)

In those days when you pray, I will listen.

**If you look for me wholeheartedly,
you will find me.**

Neither strange lands, sorrows, frustration nor physical problems can break that communion.

A WORD OF RESTORATION • EVERYONE READ TOGETHER

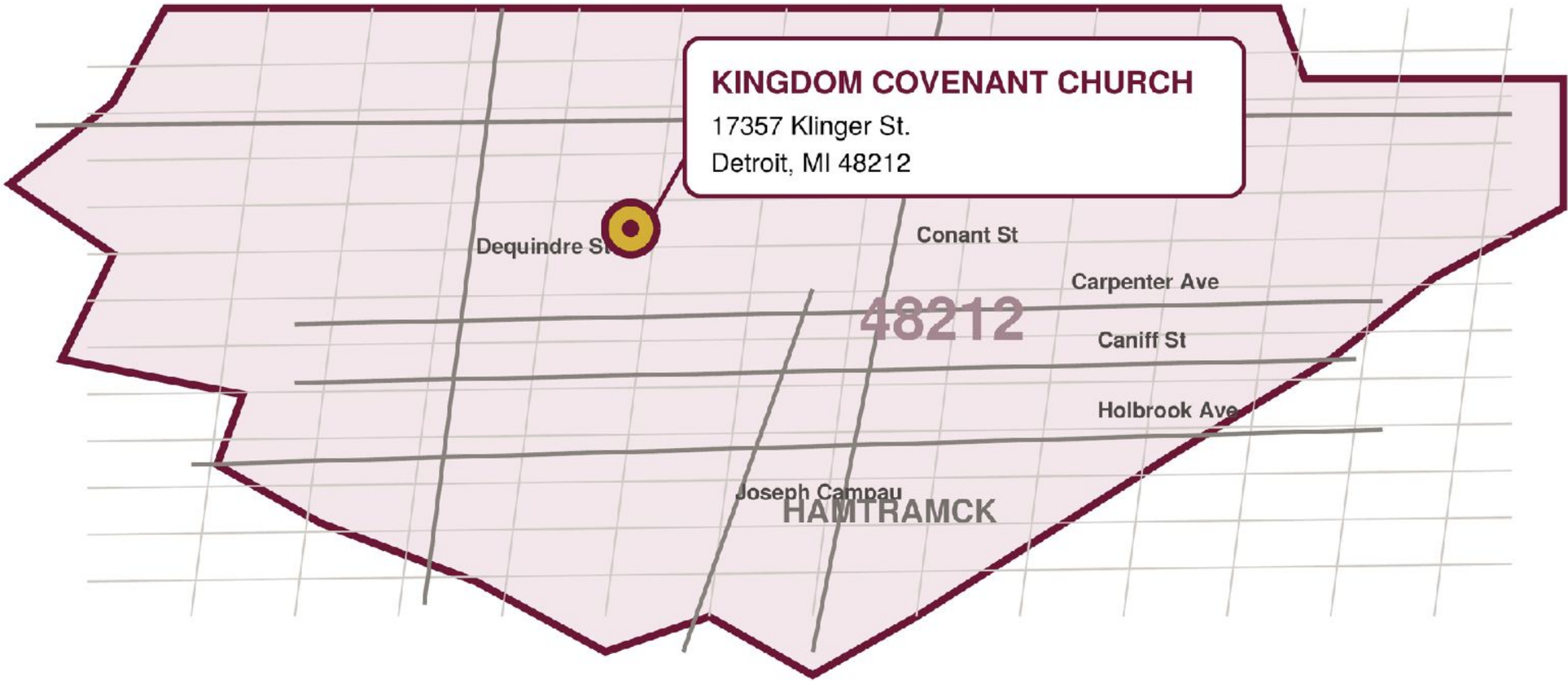
I will be found by you,” says the Lord. **“I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes.** I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and **will bring you home again** to your own land.”

JEREMIAH 29:14 (NLT)

The God who sent them is the God who brings them back.

OUR COMMUNITY — ZIP CODE 48212

Kingdom Covenant Church • 17357 Klinger St. • Detroit, MI 48212



MAPPING 48212 • ROUND 2 • GROUPS OF 4-5

Seek the peace of this city

1 • ADOPT

Take one of last week's notes off the wall.

2 • WRITE

One new note in the Justice or Mercy color. Name the street.

3 • POST AND PRAY

Post it beside the note you adopted. Pray one sentence over that street.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Cultivate: what can we build, plant or multiply on that street right now?
2. Discern: how will we test the voices that stir our emotions this election season?
3. Seek: what would working and praying for that street's peace look like this month?

48212 — DETAILED COMMUNITY STREET MAP

Kingdom Covenant Church • 17357 Klinger St. • Detroit, Michigan 48212



OPEN FLOOR

From the Ballot Box

Your questions. Every card gets answered.

SEND-OFF • FILL OUT YOUR CARD

My Jeremiah 29 card

Cultivate

One thing I will build, plant or multiply this week, even in a hard season

Discern

One voice I will test against God's Word before I believe it

Seek

One street and one leader I will pray for by name this week

THIS WEEK'S VOTER STEP • DON'T LET ANYONE TRICK YOU

Get your polling place and sample ballot from the official source.

[Michigan.gov/Vote](https://michigan.gov/Vote)

Read the whole ballot yourself. Register online or by mail by **Oct 19**. Early voting runs **Oct 24 – Nov 1**.

NEXT MONDAY • 6:30 PM

Nehemiah: When the walls are down

Grieve, pray, organize, rebuild. Bring your card and a friend.