



GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Talk About It

1. What are your expectations as you enter this New Year?

Read About It: Jeremiah 29:4-7; Mathew 22:37-39;28:19; John 13:34-35;15:5-6,18;17:15-19; Romans 12:16.

Think About It

2. **Read Matthew 22:37-39 and Matthew 28:19.** How do these verses inform the purpose and calling of Jesus' followers? What does it mean to love God so completely? How do you "love your neighbor as yourself?" Are you a "disciple" of Jesus? How do we make disciples of others?
3. **Read Romans 12:16.** Does this verse come easy for you, or do you struggle with enjoying the company of some people. What does it mean to "live in harmony with each other"?
4. **Read John 15:18 and John 17:15-19.** How do these sayings of Jesus make you feel? Do you ever struggle with not "fitting in" with the world? Got an example? How does Jesus prepare us for this reality?

Do Something About It

5. **Read Jeremiah 29:4-7.** The displaced Israelites were sent to live among people who did not believe in their God, nor uphold their values. What does God tell them to do in this uncomfortable situation? How does it instruct us as followers of Christ today?

Matthew 22:37-39

³⁷ Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 28:19

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:16

¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

John 15:18

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹ The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.

John 15:5-6

⁵ "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

Jeremiah 29:4-7

⁴ 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: ⁵ "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens and eat the food they produce. ⁶ Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! ⁷ 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."

John 17:15-19

¹⁵ I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. ¹⁹ And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.