



B E C O M I N G



January Teaching Series



For the Sake of the Chino Valley

Week 4

Overview

Jeremiah 29:11 is often quoted as a personal promise, but it was originally spoken to a community living in exile. God's people had been displaced from their land, stripped of stability, and were navigating a season of loss and uncertainty. In that painful moment, false prophets were offering quick-fix hope and promising an immediate rescue. Instead, God spoke honestly through Jeremiah, reminding His people that He had not abandoned them—even in exile.

Before giving the promise of a future and a hope, we explored how God invited them to adopt a faithful posture right where they were: to build homes, plant gardens, form families, and **seek the peace (shalom) of the city they were living in**. Shalom is more than the absence of conflict; it is wholeness—nothing missing, nothing broken—and God calls His people to participate in bringing that kind of healing presence to their surroundings.

For our church community, this message challenges us to stop living like we are just passing through our city or protecting ourselves from disappointment, and instead to practice presence, faithfulness, and prayer in tangible ways. As God shapes our inner lives, the invitation is to let that formation spill outward so that our neighborhoods, relationships, and everyday places can experience the love and wholeness of God through us — **for the sake of the Chino Valley**.

Reading

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Jeremiah 29:4-11 NIV

"4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 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. 7 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." 8 Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the Lord. 10 This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Discussion

Where do you feel the pace of life the most right now—work, family, schedule, or internally?

What would it look like to stop living like a spiritual tourist in your city or relationships?

What is one small, faithful act of love or service you can consistently do, even if it feels unnoticed or inconvenient?

Practice

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What is your next step this week?

1. BUILD Practice:

Learn one neighbor's name
Invite someone to a meal or coffee

2. PLANT Practice:

One faithful act of love no one claps for
Make peace in one conflict (refuse escalation)

3. Invitation Practice:

One-sentence prayer daily while driving: "Father, bless the Chino Valley.
Let Your shalom rest here."

Further Resources

Videos: Becoming Teaching Series - Abbalove Church

Book: Practicing the Way - John Mark Comer

Book: Invitation to a Journey - Robert Mulholland

Book: Renovation of the Heart - Dallas Willard



**Becoming a
People of love
For the Sake of
The Chino
Valley**