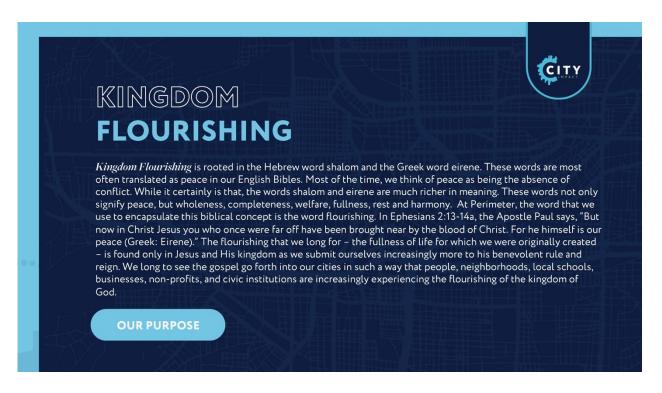
**Sermon:** Living as the Church in Our Cities

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:5-7, Matthew 5:9, Luke 10:2 (ESV)

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

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## Jeremiah 29:5-7 (ESV)

- <sup>5</sup> Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.
- <sup>6</sup> Take 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.
- <sup>7</sup> But 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.

Living in "exile" doesn't fundamentally mean living simply, being organic, living counterculturally, being radical, or abandoning suburbia for city living. At its core, it means living missionally and intentionally in light of God's economy of all things. The heart of this missional perspective is perhaps articulated the clearest in the Letter to Diognetus (c. second century), where the author employs a sticky analogy that encapsulates the essence of an "in-but-not-of" theology of culture—namely, as the soul is to the body, Christians are to the world. "The soul," the author writes, "is dispersed through all the members of the body, and Christians are scattered through all the cities of the world. The soul dwells in the body, but does not belong to the body, and Christians dwell in the world, but do not belong to the world." - Stephen Grabill From <a href="https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-big-picture/">https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-big-picture/</a>

## Three Important Questions:

 How are we to live this out in our cities? By being <u>peacemakers</u>

#### Matthew 5:9 (ESV)

- <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- 2. **Where** are we to primarily live this out? In our <u>homes</u> and <u>neighborhoods</u>

### Luke 10:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."









- 3. What do we start with?
  - a) <u>Prayer</u> (Radical Dependence)

# Luke 10:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

- b) GBI (Greet | Befriend | Invite)
- c) <u>Spiritual Multiplication</u> (Evangelism and Discipleship)
- d) Love Where You Live (Create, Cultivate, Care)

You can find these City Impact graphics and the video Jeff played during the sermon at perimeter.org/cityimpact.