

# Seeing your Campus as a Mission Field

## GENESIS 12:1-4

Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house **to the land that I will show you.** 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

## JEREMIAH 29:1-14

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 2 This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. 3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: 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: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 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. 7 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. 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD. 10 For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12 Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13 When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, 14 I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.



What will obedience cost Abram?

What is the relationship between Abram's call and God's promises?

Why did God tell Jeremiah to write this letter to the exiles?

What is God's desire for the exiles? What is his promise?

INTERVARSITY®

LEADING  
EDGE

CATEGORY	EXILE THINKING	MISSIONARY THINKING
My Purpose on Campus :		
Where God is at work :		
Who I think about and pray for :		
How I view the campus fellowship :		
The focus of my prayer life :		
Something I say to myself when I am thinking this way :		
<b>CASE STUDIES</b>		
As you think about next year's housing options . . .		
As you head to the dining hall . . .		
After an offensive campus evangelist comes to campus . . .		
As you consider your campus' ethnic and cultural groupings . . .		
As you consider teams, musical groups, and other extracurriculars . . .		
A plan for returning to campus as a missionary, not an exile :		

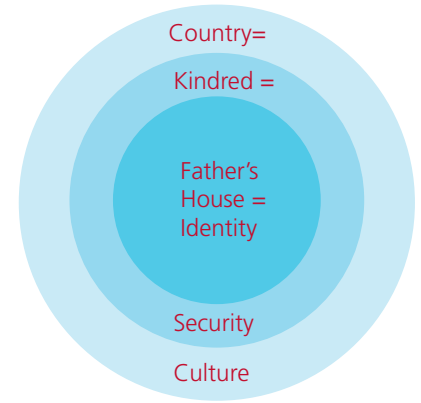
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What will obedience cost Abram?

Go from your country = culture; kindred = security; and your father's house = identity. Concentric circles of leaving

What is the relationship between Abram's call and God's promises?

- ▶ Leave your country – culture – I will make you a great nation
  - ▶ Leave your kindred – security – I will make you secure
  - ▶ Leave your family – identity – I make your name great
- Mark 10:29-31 reprise of this promise—a broadening of it—open to any with faith.

Why did God tell Jeremiah to write this letter to the exiles?

The exiles assume that God is back in Jerusalem, and that his purposes are being delayed by their exile. They assume it is a short-term arrangement, but he tells them to plan for the long-term: the exile isn't a delay in his plan—it is his plan.

What is God's desire for the exiles? What is his promise?

God scattered you – for a purpose. Give yourself to the welfare of the city to which you've been sent. Don't be separate – invest, plant, settle – you will prosper as they do. Grow spiritually, don't just hope to survive

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LEADING EDGE

CATEGORY	EXILE THINKING	MISSIONARY THINKING
<b>My Purpose on Campus :</b>	I'm here to be a student.	I have been sent here by God.
<b>Where God is at work :</b>	God is at work back at home.	God is at work in my friends on campus.
<b>Who I think about and pray for :</b>	I am called to bless my family & friends.	I am called to bless people I don't yet know.
<b>How I view the campus fellowship :</b>	The fellowship is my support colony.	The fellowship is the base camp for the mission.
<b>The focus of my prayer life :</b>	I pray for my own survival - academic, financial, relational.	I pray for a dramatic work of God on campus.
<b>Something I say to myself when I am thinking this way :</b>	I will live according to my priorities when I finish college. [Future]	I will live according to my priorities now. [Present]
<b>CASE STUDIES</b>	Suggest two or three of these that are most relevant for your campus or fellowship right now and give them time to reflect on these individually or talk in groups.	
<b>As you think about next year's housing options . . .</b>		
<b>As you head to the dining hall . . .</b>		
<b>After an offensive campus evangelist comes to campus . . .</b>		
<b>As you consider your campus' ethnic and cultural groupings . . .</b>		
<b>As you consider teams, musical groups, and other extracurriculars . . .</b>		
<b>A plan for returning to campus as a missionary, not an exile :</b>		

