DISCUSSION GUIDE

READ

2 Chronicles 36:15-20

Here are some questions and thoughts to help guide discussion:

1. Even though Israel was exiled, and God punished them for their sin, He still promised to restore them, even before they were exiled (see Deuteronomy 30:1-4). What does this say about who God is and what He has planned? In what ways should this knowledge help and encourage us in our walk with Him?

2. Israel had retuned from exile, and they were no longer in Babylon. However, spiritually, Babylon was still in them—that is, they were still spiritually far from God—and so they continued to disobey God. Are there any ways in which "Babylon" is still in you?

3. What does the exile show us about the kind of saviour we really need? What is the solution to the problem of our sinful hearts?

4. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. What does God promise in the new covenant? How does He plan to restore sinful humanity? How have *you* experienced these realities?

5. What would your life look like apart from Christ and His work in the New Covenant? Are you aware of the ways in which you still (desperately) need Christ today? Give some examples.

6. Thank of the people you know who don't know Christ. Is "exile" an appropriate way of describing their spiritual condition? What are you doing to lead them to the only cure for their sinfulness?