



OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer on the follow two questions...

Consider at time when you felt totally out of place - like an exile. What did that feel like and why?

Remember a time when you first returned home after moving out or away (such as your first weekend visit after going to college.) What did it feel like to return home?

DIG

What does it take for a place to feel like home?

How does God bless us when we are in those places of exile?

Read Psalm 126

Or Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

Psalm 126 is song that was sung by people returning to Jerusalem. In it they affirm great truths about God and His people. This Psalm gives us the emotions people felt as they returned home.

What do you think the atmosphere was like among those people returning from captivity?

This passage promises that suffering is only temporary for God's people.

How does God use our suffering to actually bless us?

How has God used this trying time away from our regular routines and lives to restore you spiritually?

APPLY

Some look at this quarantine as a time of waiting to return to "normal life." However, God uses times like this to spiritually grow us if we let him so we can return to a better life.

What is one way you can make sure you spiritually growing through this time?

Close in a time of prayer.

-KTW

Leaders

Big Idea

The exiles returned to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel with only a small crowd at first. Then, waves of exiles continued to come over the next 100 years. However, God had used the exile to restore His people spiritually before physically returning them home.

Special Considerations

You may likely be conducting your LIFE Group meetings via video in an online setting during this time. While it might feel less personal than an in-home meeting, this could actually be a great time for your group to renew its concern for each other by making special efforts to connect throughout the week. Consider sending out prayer requests, well-wishes, or updated via text or email during the week. Likewise, your group might consider adding a brief, mid-week video conference just to pray and check in.

Group Discussion Reminder

Our LIFE Groups are a great place to pour out the love we share into the lives of others. We can't keep this love and community to ourselves. Who do you know that might benefit from being part of your group? Share those names, pray for them, and ask God to give you the courage to talk to them about visiting your group.