

ST PETER'S, KINVER ST MARY'S, ENVILLE

SEEKING GOD'S VISION 2: LOOKING OUT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"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." (Jeremiah 29:7)

Begin by reading Jeremiah 29:1-7 together

- Does anything strike you from this passage?
- How do you think the people who had been taken captive into Babylon felt when they heard those words?
- What about those people they left behind?
- Have you ever found yourself in a difficult or unexpected place? How did you cope with that situation?

Rev'd Rich spoke about his experience in Croatia, where he expected to be going to bless the people there, but found that he and the team were far more blessed themselves by what God was already doing.

- Is this something that you have experienced before?
- How do we cultivate the humility required to expect to see God at work in other people, especially in other countries where 'need' is more evident?

Jeremiah urges the people to "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you ... and pray to the Lord on its behalf".

- How do we seek the welfare of the community where we live?
- How do we make sure our mindset is not just seeking our own welfare, but seeking the welfare of the people around us?
- How might we put this into practice in an election season?

Jesus appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them... 'Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person ... say to them 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (luke 10:1-11)

Jesus tasked his disciples with seeking out people of peace, who were not Jesus's followers but were ready to receive him when he came.

- How do you think they identified those people of peace?
- Can you think of anyone who you would describe like this? Might this have described you at one time?

Rev'd Rich ended the sermon by saying that as we seek out what God is already doing, then we can think about how we join in with that work.

- What organisations, groups, or places do we already have links with? Where might we make new links?
- How can we find ways to learn from our sisters and brothers around the world? How might they help us to see anew what God is doing in our own lives, churches and communities?

"Because God is at work in this world, in myriad different ways, through myriad different people. And if we can look at the world with an expectation that we will see God at work then we will see God at work, and we will be astonished, astounded, amazed, by what we see."

Finish by spending some time in prayer, for yourself, for our Churches, for our communities, our nation, and our world. Pray that through this series, as we seek God's vision, we might be open to seeing what God is already doing in the world around us. You may find the line from the Lord's Prayer "your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven" helpful as you think about these things.