

**Week Three: *Prospering the Enemy***  
***Jeremiah 29:4-7, 11 & Daniel 2***

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. Have you or a close friend lived abroad? What was the experience like living cross-culturally? If you haven't, imagine living in a place where you were transplanted into a different culture.
2. When the people of Israel were sent into exile, the enemies were easy to see because the Israelites were living among the Babylonians. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. What was God's command to the Israelites in Babylon?
3. Who sent Israel to Babylon? Why do you think the exile could benefit God's people?
4. How can you grow where you are planted like the Israelites were commanded to in Jeremiah 29:4-7?
5. Read Jeremiah 29:10-14. What was God's promise to the Israelites after the time of exile was completed?
6. What comfort do you take from God's promise to his people in Jeremiah 29:10-14?
7. As you end your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to show you how to grow where he has planted you for this season.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

8. Read Daniel 2:1-3. Who did the king turn to for answers? Who do you turn to when you face something challenging, be it a crazy dream or unsettling news?
9. Read Daniel 2:4-13. How did Nebuchadnezzar react to the astrologer's request? What would he gain from a reaction like that?
10. Read Daniel 2:14-18. What did Daniel do once he learned of the king's command?
11. How do you respond when you are faced with an unprovoked attack by others?
12. How can you show mercy to those who attack you?

13. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God for wisdom to respond wisely when a negative situation arises.

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

14. Think of a time when God answered your prayer. How did you respond?

15. Read Daniel 2:19-23. What did Daniel praise God for?

16. What attributes of God do you praise him for regularly?

17. How does praising God change your mindset about people and/or situations you may be facing? (See Colossians 3:1-3.)

18. Look again at your answer to question #14. If your answer did not include praising God, why do you think that was the case?

19. Today put praising God into practice by spending the rest of your FIFTEEN praising God for *who* he is. Spend time dwelling on his attributes. Listen to the hymn “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qU4l7RoKIk> or choose one of your current favorite songs of praise.

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

20. Look up synonyms for the word “enemy.” List them out. Which words do you connect to? Are there people who you would describe with those words rather than “enemy”?

21. Read Matthew 5:43-44. Why is it hard to love our enemies?

22. What are ways that we can love our enemies?

23. Read Rick Warren’s devotion about loving people who require extra grace. <https://pastorrick.com/take-the-high-ground-for-a-clear-perspective/> Which suggestion will you take to show love and care to those who irritate you?

24. Finally, finish your FIFTEEN in prayer by asking God to help you see the EGR people with his eyes.

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

25. Look again at Daniel 2 to refresh your memory. King Nebuchadnezzar must have felt that this dream was more of a

nightmare. What do you do when you find yourself in a dream that is unsettling?

26. Read Daniel 2:24. How were the enemies blessed?

27. Read Daniel 2:25-28. How is God described? What is God capable of doing?

28. Skim Daniel 2:29-35. Visualize the statue. Why is it an unsettling image for Nebuchadnezzar? How would you feel receiving such a dream?

29. Read Daniel 2:35-49. What are you reminded about who God is and what he can do?

30. At the end of the dream, how does God show that he is ultimately in control of all situations and events?

31. Does that give you a different perspective on enemies and your situation? Why or why not?

32. What is God's goal for all people – even enemies? (See 1 Timothy 2:4.)

33. As you conclude your final FIFTEEN this week, pray that God will give you a heart for your city, your situations, your government.