



## 7. “Exile”

*<sup>1</sup>By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. <sup>2</sup>There on the poplars we hung our harps, <sup>3</sup>for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” <sup>4</sup>How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land? <sup>5</sup>If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. <sup>6</sup>May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy. -Psalm 137:1-6*

*<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup>Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. – 1 Peter 2:9-12*

*<sup>17</sup>Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. <sup>18</sup>Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. -Deuteronomy 24:17-18*

Watch the video from The Bible Project [“Exile”](#) prior to or at the start of the study.

1. Psalm 137 captures the yearning of the Israelites during the Babylonian captivity. Read Ps 137:1-6. Can you relate to any of the sentiments expressed here? When have you felt most at “home” in your life? What made you feel this way? Did you feel like it was still incomplete? How and why?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. What is the calling that God has placed on us as His people while we live in exile? What are some of the struggles you face in living out this calling? What are some practical ways we can be more faithful to this calling?
3. Read Deuteronomy 24:17-18. How are we to grow in empathy towards those who may be disenfranchised or without a home around us? What are ways we might be able to personally advocate for those in our communities who are living in “exile”?