## 12. The Prophets

### Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: "The Prophets" <u>https://bibleproject.com/videos/the-prophets</u>

#### **Discussion Questions**

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

Read: Jeremiah 29:1-14

Jeremiah writes a letter to a community of Israelites who were recently exiled to Babylon. He encourages them to settle in and build communities that seek the well-being of their captors. They are to seek peace and harmony not because they've given up, but because of their bold hope that God will rescue them and restore them to the promised land one day.

1. What resonated most with you in this passage?

2. Take a moment to reflect on what it means to "settle in" to this time, while still maintaining hope in the future.

3. What could it look like to extend love to our leaders and the broader culture in this time?

#### Read & Share:

Read <u>Matthew 11:1-15</u> (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

#### Pray:

Spend some time praying together with...and for... each other.

# 13. Under a Fruit Tree (Wisdom Books)

## Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: <u>https://bibleproject.com/videos/books-solomon</u>

#### **Discussion Questions**

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

In the opening pages of the Bible, God creates a garden, and right in the center is the tree of life. God gives humans living breath, and with this tree he offers eternal life. In contrast to this gift stands the tree of knowing good and bad, and eating from it, God warns, causes death. The two trees pose a vital question to humanity: Will we rely on God for wisdom and eternal life, or will we defy God's warnings and define life by our own understanding?

1. With all the good news that God's wisdom holds, why do you think it's so hard to follow it? Why do we so often choose to live by our own limited understanding?

2. Consider a time in life when you followed God's wisdom even though it defied your own understanding (see verses 5-8). What was that like?

#### Read & Share:

Read Song of Songs 8:5-14 (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

#### Pray:

Spend some time praying together with...and for... each other.

# 14. A Vineyard (Parables of Jesus)

#### Watch

Go to the Bible Project website (on Zoom you can opt share a screen) and watch the video: <u>https://bibleproject.com/videos/how-to-read-the-bible-the-parables-of-jesus</u>

#### **Discussion Questions**

(These are optional, you can use all, some or none, and go straight to "Read & Share")

1. If the message of God's Kingdom is so important, why did Jesus cloak it in parables? Why was he not more clear?

Have a look at Isaiah 5:1-7 and Isaiah 6:9-10

2. Jesus (also) uses the parables in order to both conceal and reveal, why do you think that is?

#### Read & Share:

Read <u>Matthew 20:1-16</u> (someone to read it aloud) and ask the following 3 questions:

What does this passage tell about God?

What does this passage tell about me?

How is this going to impact me in week ahead?

#### Pray:

Spend some time praying together with...and for... each other.