



Love Can Do Anything May 14, 2017 / Mother's Day

The Big Idea

- God's love shines through us in miraculous ways.

Key Text

- Jeremiah 29:5-7

Supportive Texts

- Matthew 5:13-16
- 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- 1 Peter 2:19
- Matthew 5:9

Exegetical Idea

- God's people exiled in Babylon wanted to return to the Promised Land. God, however, planned for them to stay put and be a blessing in an uncomfortable situation in an uncomfortable land. It is not God's will for us to try to escape every difficult situation, but to be a source of light instead.

Primary Thoughts to Convey

- God does miracles in the darkest of places.
- It's possible God has you right where He wants you.
- We are called to be the salt and the light.

Applications to Make

- Ask God to miraculously change things rather than complaining about things.
- Be a blessing and a peacemaker wherever you go.
- Pray for our city.

Creative/Illustrative Ideas

- Honor all moms, but take an offering to bless unwed or single moms in a specific way.
- Citywide prayer rally prior to this Sunday.
- Clear vision casting video from withinREACH to all of our churches.
- A spoken word speaking life to our city.
- A drama of people coming together in love. One person does something that attracts more people to do the same thing until the stage/platform is filled with people in unison with smiles on their faces and love in their hearts.
- Testimony from someone who intentionally moved to an impoverished part of town to make a difference.
- Have a missionary tell about fitting into a new culture to reach it.
- Normal things matter. Buying a house, raising your kids around other people's kids, living in proximity to lost people.

- Testimony of someone who gave back to the community in a big way (i.e., professional athlete).
- Take an offering to bless an organization(s) in town.
- Tell a story about how prayer impacted someone's life or changed the course of home, business, or other organization.
- Pray over a civic leader. Have various civic leaders attend all of the withinREACH churches for this opportunity.

Sample Message / LOVE CAN DO ANYTHING

Creative Ideas:

- Some type of eruption of noise that can be heard throughout the city on this Sunday morning (i.e., something like the tornado sirens going off, but less frightening. haha)
- A citywide public announcement via social media, radio stations, and TV stations that goes out all at once. Stop the city in its tracks with a message of love. This could include people all throughout the city from all our churches with signs that say, "God loves you!"
- Offering to meet a specific, unsolved need in our city.

I. Embrace our city.

A. Explanation

1. Jeremiah 29:5–6
2. God has you where He wants you.

B. Illustration

1. Have a missionary tell about fitting into a new culture to reach it.

C. Application

1. Stop complaining about the people around you.
2. Embrace vs. complain
3. Don't pull out of society. This will only make things worse.
4. Engage people in conversation.
5. Live exemplary lives.
6. Rub shoulders with people who think and act differently than you (build off a previous week's message.)
7. Be salt and light.

II. Bless our city.

A. Explanation

1. Jeremiah 29:7a
2. God wants to bless His people and everyone around them.

B. Illustration

1. Honor all moms, but take an offering to bless unwed or single moms in a specific way.

C. Application

1. Don't just work for a paycheck.
2. Make sure your work, your job, your efforts have a positive impact on our society.
3. Be a peacemaker wherever you go.
4. Don't stir up strife, division, or dissension.

III. Pray for our city.

A. Explanation

1. Jeremiah 29:7b
2. God wants to redeem our city.

B. Application

1. Pray for our leaders and thank God for them, even if you disagree with them.
2. Support those in leadership so that you gain a listening ear.
3. Pray for your friends and neighbors.
4. Pray for a revival, even if it takes 70 years.

Conclusion:

Introduce a civic leader and pray over him/her and over our city.