

RESILIENT DISCIPLES



INTRO: EXILIC DISCIPLES

GETTING STARTED

A significant recent study revealed that only 9% of young Canadians who grew up in the church would be what we would call *Resilient Disciples*. So what can we learn from the faith of these disciples that helps us be and make resilient disciples in a context perhaps best described as *Digital Babylon*?

READ THE TEXT: 1 Peter 2:11-12

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. When Peter references *Babylon* in 5:13 he is referring to Rome (Babylon was small and obscure by this point). Why does he do that? What does Babylon represent in the Bible?
2. What challenges did God's people experience as exiles in Babylon? Compare and contrast that with what Christians experience today in *Digital Babylon*?

APPLY THE TEXT

1. How have you observed our society change in the last 5, 10, 20, 50 years? What implications do you think that has on disciple-making?
2. Which of these best describes you and others close to you: *Prodigal*, *Nomad*, *Habitual Churchgoer*, or a *Resilient Disciple*? (chart below)



3. How are you doing at making resilient disciples? How well does our church do at making resilient disciples? How might you grow at it and help our church do so also? (a chart below describes the 5 practices common among resilient disciples)

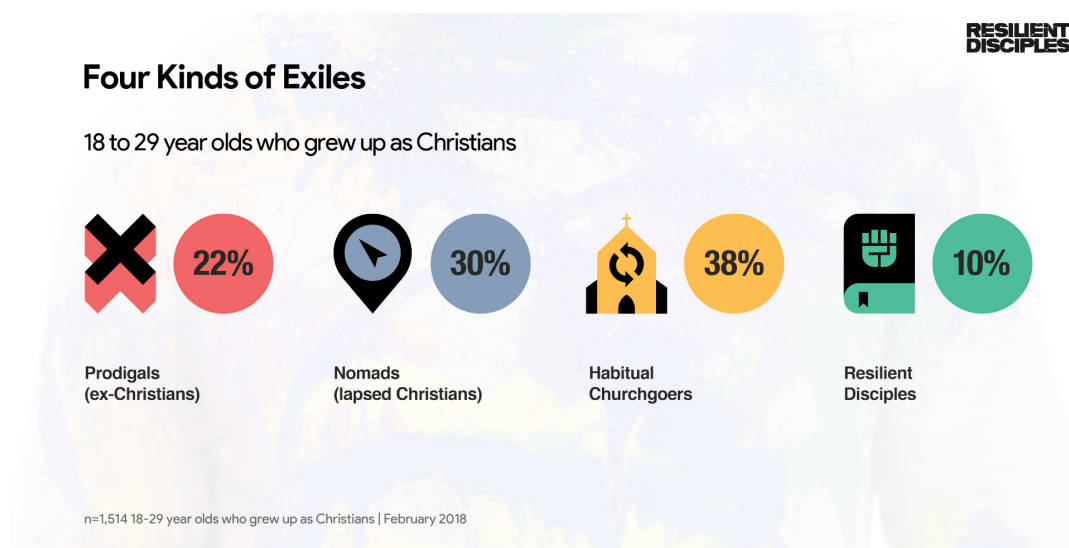
SHARE & PRAY

1. In light of 1 Peter 2:11-12, pray for each other as it pertains to pursuing holiness, abstaining from worldly passions, and living as compelling witnesses to unbelievers for God's glory and their salvation.
2. Identify 1-3 people in your life that you could disciple, or identify those that you are discipling — disciples of Jesus make disciples of Jesus — and pray for them. Pray for each other also as you seek to be used by God as resilient disciple-makers.

RESILIENT DISCIPLES

We live in a complicated, accelerated culture.

“Jerusalem”	“Babylon”
* Faith at the center	* Faith in the margins
* Monotheistic	* Pluralistic
* Slower pace	* Accelerated, frenetic
* Idol: false piety	* Idol: fitting in, being up to speed
* Simple life	* Bitter/sweet tension



What Practices Distinguish Resilient Disciples?

-  Experiencing Jesus
-  Cultural Discernment
-  Meaningful Relationships
-  Vocational Discipleship
-  Countercultural Mission

How We Defined Resilient Disciples

Christ followers who:

- (1) attend church at least monthly and engage with their church more than just attending worship services;
- (2) trust firmly in the authority of the Bible;
- (3) are committed to Jesus personally and affirm he was crucified and raised from the dead to conquer sin and death; and
- (4) express desire to transform the broader society as an outcome of their faith.

n=1,514 18-29 year olds who grew up as Christians | February 2018

