

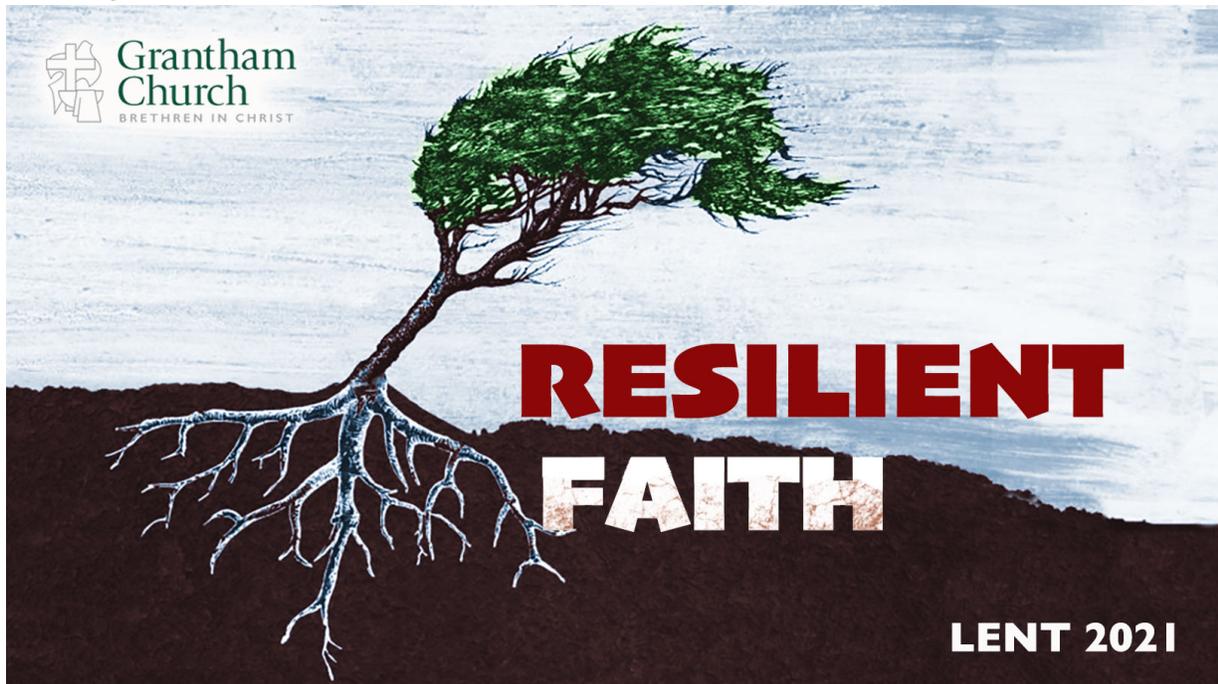
Resilient Faith (3 of 4) Small Group Discussion Questions

PUBLIC WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship in-person with restrictions or online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning via our Grantham Church YouTube Channel. For more information, please go to the [Grantham Church Live](#) page at our website.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, March 7th 2021



Sermon Title: The Necessity of Lament

Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:10-12; Psalm 13:1-6, 22:1; Matt 5:4; Phil 2:12-14

Sermon Focus: This life is full of troubles. If we don't acknowledge what is wrong and learn how to properly lament, we will grow to be spiritually malformed. We can see this most clearly in the story of the exodus when God's people grumble and lob faithless complaints at God. Listen as Pastor David invites us to follow Jesus and learn from his darkest moment of despair on the cross, where he lamented with resilient faith.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. The exodus and the wilderness experience forever shaped God's people. It formed their identity, their calling, their theology, and their living. Do you have events like this in your own life? What about in the life of our church? Also, how has (and how do you anticipate) the pandemic will shape you and our church?
2. Read Exodus 14:10-12 together. Notice three things here: (1) how fear (even when the change is good or *potentially* good) distorts our view of the past; (2) you can be comfortable in your captivity when see the faith it requires to escape it; and (3) this is the beginning of a pattern of grumbling and *faithless* complaints among the Israelites, as they wander in the wilderness as a community. Reflect on these points. What thoughts, feelings, or insights do you have about this text? How do you see these same reactions in our own responses to trials?
3. In his greatest moment of darkness and despair, Jesus recites Psalm 22:1 from the cross. Psalm 22 is a lament psalm. By quoting this verse, Jesus was evoking the entire lament psalm, which follows this pattern: honest complaint, confession of trust, petition, praise, and hope. We can see this same pattern in Psalm 13, a classic lament psalm. In what ways are biblical lament different than the world's way of responding to injustice and expressing grief, anger, and loss?
4. Pastor David said, "A true lament speaks to God as the Divine Therapist. And by the end of the session, we can say, "I've done what you asked me to do. I spilled my guts. I told you what I'm really thinking and feeling. And I believe those things are now in good hands because I believe you're a good God. You will listen, and you will love me. And it's because of your love that I keep bringing these complaints to you, that I will keep singing your praises, and that I will remember how good you've been to me." Do you see God this way?
5. Pastor David told us that biblical lament says...
 1. "This isn't right."
 2. "This hurts, but I'm not quitting."
 3. "God, I/we need your help."

Which of these is the easiest for you to say? Which of these is the hardest?

How can your group pray for you in this season? Lift each other up in prayer.