

Discussion Questions

July 3, 2022



..BUT GOD

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1. Read Lamentations 3:1-18. This is the faithful prophet Jeremiah speaking to God, in the midst of the incredible carnage of the destruction of Jerusalem. What does this show about how Jeremiah relates to God? Discuss your own feeling of freedom to be this honest about what grieves you with God?

2. Read Lamentations 3:31-26. What specific truths about God does Jeremiah remind himself of that allows him to endure the tragedy and wait upon the Lord?

3. How can reminding ourselves of what we know is true of God fuel hope in our lives even if our immediate circumstances do not change? When is a time your recalling God's faithfulness fueled faithfulness in you?

4. How does this passage help you to lament before God concerning the pain, suffering, and hurt you have experienced and/or seen in the world?



Lamentations 3:22-23

*But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; * his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

Lamentation 3:1-18

I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the LORD's wrath. He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; indeed, he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long. He has made my skin and my flesh grow old and has broken my bones. He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship. He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead. He has walled me in so I cannot escape; he has weighed me down with chains. Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. He has barred my way with blocks of stone; he has made my paths crooked. Like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in hiding, he dragged me from the path and mangled me and left me without help. He drew his bow and made me the target for his arrows. He pierced my heart with arrows from his quiver. I became the laughingstock of all my people; they mock me in song all day long. He has filled me with bitter herbs and given me gall to drink. He has broken my teeth with gravel; he has trampled me in the dust. I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is. So I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD. "I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Lamentations 2:8-12

The LORD determined to tear down the wall around Daughter Zion. He stretched out a measuring line and did not withhold his hand from destroying. He made ramparts and walls lament; together they wasted away. Her gates have sunk into the ground; their bars he has broken and destroyed. Her king and her princes are exiled among the nations, the law is no more, and her prophets no longer find visions from the LORD. The elders of Daughter Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have sprinkled dust on their heads and put on sackcloth. The young women of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground. My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed, because children and infants faint in the streets of the city. They say to their mothers, "Where is bread and wine?" as they faint like the wounded in the streets of the city, as their lives ebb away in their mothers' arms.

Lamentations: 2:20-22

Whom have you ever treated like this? Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord? "Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets; my young men and maidens have fallen by the sword. You have slain them in the day of your anger; you have slaughtered them without pity. "As you summon to a feast day, so you summoned against me terrors on every side. In the day of the LORD's anger no one escaped or survived; those I cared for and reared, my enemy has destroyed."

Lamentations 3:1

I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the LORD's wrath.

Jeremiah 20:14

"I curse the day I was born! May the day of my birth not be blessed. I curse the messenger who told my father, "Good news—you have a son!" Let him be destroyed like the cities of old that the LORD overthrew without mercy. Terrify him all day long with battle shouts, for he did not kill me at birth. Oh, that I had died in my mother's womb, that her body had been my grave! Why was I ever born? (he says) My entire life has been filled with trouble, sorrow, and shame.

Lamentations 3:17-20

my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD." Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.

Job 13:15

"though he slay me, still I will trust in him"

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, DON'T lean on YOUR own understanding.

