

LAMENTATIONS:

ACCEPTING GOD'S DISCIPLINE
HOPING IN GOD'S FAITHFUL
COMPASSION

Jerusalem's Desolation	Jerusalem's Destruction is God's Discipline	Hope in God: Great is His Faithfulness	Jerusalem's Judgment Described & Completed	Remember, Restore, Renew Us O Lord!
Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
an acrostic poem with 1 verse for every Hebrew letter	an acrostic poem with 1 verse for every Hebrew letter	an acrostic poem with 3 verses for every Hebrew letter	an acrostic poem with 1 verse for every Hebrew letter	22 verses, but no acrostic



A ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE BIBLE

Lamentations | February 8, 2015

What it looks like...

when
God removes
His _____

What it looks like...

to lament
and grieve
over our _____

What it looks like...

to _____ in
God in our
worst _____

A ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE BIBLE

Questions for Growth Groups



CONNECTING TOGETHER

In this 5th week of Growth Groups, spend time connecting and sharing life together. If it's helpful, use this question to get you talking . . .

What is your favorite childhood memory?

STUDYING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

1. Share together what you now know about the book of Lamentations. Who likely wrote it? How is the book composed? When was it written? What is the focus of the book? Where is the center of the book?
2. Read Lamentations 2:4-9. These verses mention how God removes the symbols of His presence from Judah. What are some of those symbols and can you see them mentioned in the text?
3. We live in the "bubble of God's grace" and so it's difficult to envision what it would be like if God removed His grace, but Lamentations gives us a picture. What do you see in the book? Does it give you a picture of what that might look like today? Why is it a valuable exercise to envision the removal of God's grace?

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Questions for Growth Groups



4. Lamentations shows us the appropriate way to lament and grieve over our sin through brokenness and confession (1:8), acknowledgement of God's righteousness (1:18), acceptance of the consequences (3:39-40) and prayer for restoration (5:21) Which of these four is hardest for you?
5. Read Lamentations 3:19-40. Unlike Western poetry, when the climax and resolution comes at the end, in Lamentations the climax comes in the middle. Why does the author have hope in the midst of his despair and Jerusalem's desolation? (There are lots of reasons listed!) How does Jesus embody and bring to fulfillment all these qualities of God recognized in Lamentations?
6. Explore and discuss this statement. *While Lamentations is the lament of God's people at a particular moment in history, it is also our lament and ultimately points us to Christ's lament for us.*

PRAYING TOGETHER

Lament for the brokenness of our world, our own sin and the lostness of specific people you know. Give thanks for the "bubble of God's grace" and the many expressions of that grace in our lives that are new every morning. Plead with God for spiritual restoration and renewal in our lives, our church and our community.