

## The Practice of Lament . . .

- We're \_\_\_\_\_ to the way things were \_\_\_\_\_.
- Where are the Grace Elders at on reopening our church for live services?
- What might live services look like for the foreseeable future?

Let us seek the Lord for what's next through focused persistent prayer in this Covid-19 pandemic:

- Pray for the checking and dissipation of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for the healing of individuals and communities that have contracted the Covid-19 virus.
- Pray for the safety of healthcare and others working on the frontlines of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for the financial provision of businesses and individuals who have lost work because of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for wisdom for county, state and national leaders as they make crucial decisions during the Covid-19 crisis.



Restore Us, O God

Psalm 80

Sunday, May 17, 2020

*Psalm 80 is one of a lot of Psalms of corporate lament in the book of Psalms. The very presence of these Psalms teaches us that lament is a vital and necessary part of the human experience. Today, in Psalm 80, we see the pattern of lament and we enter into the practice of lament . . .*

**1. With God and as a community, we \_\_\_\_\_ what has been \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Grieving involves \_\_\_\_\_.
- Grieving involves \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. With God and as a community, we \_\_\_\_\_ what is \_\_\_\_\_.**

**3. As a community, we \_\_\_\_\_ for what is \_\_\_\_\_.**



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Growth Group Interaction Guide

*Growth Groups are the glue which holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at [gracecentralcoast.org](http://gracecentralcoast.org).*

*This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, and Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group Interaction Guide to help groups move in that direction.*

*During the COVID-19 crisis our groups are meeting virtually using Zoom and other online platforms.*

### Connecting Together

*Do you think you've adequately and appropriately grieved that tidal wave of change that's crashed down upon us? In what areas do you think we're looking at longer term changes?*

### Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Read Psalm 80 together. How did you come under God's Word in the text and message this week? How did God speak to you? What did you learn or what were you reminded of in this study?
2. We does the presence of Psalm 80 and all these other "Psalms of Lament" tell us and teach us?
3. "We American Christians don't always make time and space for lament." Agree or disagree? Why do you think that's true or untrue?
4. Where in Psalm 80 do you see Asaph grieving what's been lost? Facing what is now? Expecting and embracing what's next?

5. A "return to normal" might be some time off in lots of different areas of our lives including church. Do you think you've really faced that and grieved that?
6. **Your Growth Group as a Family:** Our Sunday gathering used to be the center of our church. Growth Groups are now! How does your group need to grow and change to fully embrace this now and next reality?
7. **Your Growth Group as a Servant/Missionary:** If our Sunday gathering doesn't look the way it once did for a long time, what are fresh and new ways we can pursue the mission of Jesus by "helping people find and follow Him"? How might Growth Groups serve this purpose?

### Praying Together

- Pray for the checking and dissipation of this Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for the the healing of individuals and communities that contacted the Covid-19 virus.
- Pray for the safety healthcare and others working on the frontlines of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for the financial provision of businesses and individuals who have lost work because of this Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for wisdom for county, state and national leaders as they make crucial decisions during this Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray through your own grieving what's been lost, facing what is now and embracing what God has for us next. Pray that we would find new and fresh ways to help people find and follow Jesus.
- Share and pray for one another's needs.