

Week 4
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

SET IT OFF

INTRODUCTION

Lamentations is a book that is like funeral sorrow let loose on the world. It is pain and grief and sorrow for 5 chapters. It is questioning God and hoping someone stops to hear and help. Lamentations in Hebrew is EKAH (HOW).

DISCUSSION

What happens when God's people live in a way that doesn't reflect Him in any way?

EXPLANATION

Define the term “the least of these.”

How do you treat the least of these?

How do you make judgments about others?

How do you treat people when you have a dispute with them?

APPLICATION

How, in your life, have you placed yourself on a pedestal?

What does that look like?

Does this make you treat others differently than you would if you were truly humble?

Do you think you have ever set God off?

How/when/when/where (details)...

Have you ever brought God much joy?

How/when/when/where (details)...

LAMENTATIONS

SET IT OFF

Matthew 25:39-40

2 Chronicles 36:15-20

Lamentations 3:1-3,
7, 16-17, 22-23

Psalm 18:50

Deuteronomy 6:4

Lamentations 3:34-36

Zechariah 7:8-12

Micah 6:8

Genesis 39:20

Psalm 69:33, 79:11,
102:20

Exodus 12:29

Zechariah 9:9-12

Deuteronomy 16:18-20

John 5:22

John 3:17

Ephesians 4:30

Ephesians 4:25

Hebrews 12:15

Lamentations 3:40-57

2 Corinthians 5:21

Ephesians 5:1

Week 4 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



SET IT OFF

Matthew 25:39-40 *When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’*

Lamentations is a book that is like funeral sorrow let loose on the world. It is pain and grief and sorrow for 5 chapters. It is questioning God and hoping someone stops to hear and help. Lamentations in Hebrew is EKAH (HOW).

- **How** in the world are all these things happening to us.
- **How** if God is true and real ARE WE IN SUCH A MESS.

God shows up to slaves in Egypt and brings them out, He takes them to Sinai and says “be my message to the world.” And, eventually, these former slaves end up building their empire on the backs of slaves.

Their king becomes an arms dealer and had slaves build his military installations and palaces. Israel became so comfortable that PRESERVING their way of life drowned out their ability to hear their original calling.

What does God do when his people live in a way that doesn’t reflect Him in any way?

They start in Egypt as slaves, they get rescued, receive a mission and identity in Sinai, Build an Empire in Jerusalem and start doing to others what was done to them. They are then conquered by a foreign king who hauls them to Babylon as slaves. This is NOW the lament over that destruction...

THE PAIN and the POETRY hand in hand: *I am the man who has seen affliction by (by what) the rod of (the rod of what?) his wrath.* -AND YET, there are those who call this song of lament an actual song of praise. *V22-23 Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* Pain and praise...the LORD’S great love.

The word love is the word HESED; it could mean, love, grace, compassion...but carries the idea that GOD keeps His word no matter what. The term indicates faithfulness to a relationship. Hesed is God’s love that moves him to be kind to those with whom he has established a relationship with. *Psalms 18:50 He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever.*

Compassion is Rahamim - the root of Rahamim is the WOMB. It has the idea that just as a mother nourishes, cares for, and protects the baby in her womb...so God cares for, nourishes and protects those He loves.

HESED and RAHAMIM - in the midst of God’s spanking. He keeps His word and protects His children... **great is your faithfulness.**

What sets God off?

- 1) **To crush underfoot all prisoners in the land** - The verb crush means “To BEAT someone to pieces” or “to reduce them to dust.”
- 2) **To deny a man his rights before the Most High,**
- 3) **To deprive a man of justice** - This could be understood as “to wrong a person in their cause”

Rephrase the questions:

- ---How do you treat the least of these?
- ---How do you make judgments about others?
- ---How do you treat people when I have a dispute with them?

