

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Rise Up

... to Endurance – Lamentations 2

Discussion Points

October 3, 2021

Read/Reflect

- Read the entire chapter of Lamentations 2. What are some of your reactions to reading this?

<input type="checkbox"/> I felt sorry for the lamenter	<input type="checkbox"/> It made me feel downcast
<input type="checkbox"/> I got fed up hearing the laments	<input type="checkbox"/> I felt in good company
<input type="checkbox"/> It made me feel anxious	<input type="checkbox"/> Other reflections_____
- Lamentations is highly structured: e.g. Lamentations 1, 2, 4, and 5 all have 22 verses, and the Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters, each verse in each poem begins with the next letter in the alphabet, each verse has exactly 3 lines in chapter 1-3. What do you think that suggests about lament before God? Why is this book in the Bible?

Explore

- What losses have you experienced during the Covid pandemic? How have you grieved those losses?

<input type="checkbox"/> I get angry easier	<input type="checkbox"/> I feel lonely
<input type="checkbox"/> I get depressed	<input type="checkbox"/> I “keep my chin up”
<input type="checkbox"/> I always feel tired	<input type="checkbox"/> I commiserate with others
- When in your life have you felt, “the Lord is like an enemy?” (Lamentations 2:5). Is such language not too strong?
- How would you define and/or distinguish “lament” given these terms:

<input type="checkbox"/> Complaining	<input type="checkbox"/> Sorrow	<input type="checkbox"/> Wit’s end
<input type="checkbox"/> Crying out	<input type="checkbox"/> Grumbling	<input type="checkbox"/> Unbelief
- What place does lament have in your life?

<input type="checkbox"/> I don’t want to complain!	<input type="checkbox"/> It’s a spiritual discipline
<input type="checkbox"/> It helps make worship real.	<input type="checkbox"/> Never thought of it before

Pray

- ✝ Use Psalm 77 as a prayer.
- ✝ Gather up losses you’ve acknowledged in question 3 and submit them before the Lord, expressing pain, hurt, disappointment that those losses have left you.
- ✝ Conclude your prayer by repeating Lamentations 3:22-24:
 - ²² Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
 - ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
 - ²⁴ I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”



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