

Devastating Loss

Jeremiah & Lamentations

- When life is filled with loss...
 - Keep calling, God has a plan.

(Jeremiah 29:10-14)

- Call to mind – God has compassion.

(Lamentations 3:19-24)

Getting Started: Make a list of losses that you have seen yourself or others' experience because of your sin, others' sin, or life in a broken world.

Digging In: What reason does Jeremiah give for the destruction of Jerusalem (Jer 5:19, 9:12-14, 44:2-6)? What does the false prophet, Hananiah, say about the length of time of the exile (Jer 28:11-17)? How does Jeremiah respond to this? What does Jeremiah call the people to do in Jer 29:1-10? What promise does God give? Why? Why is Jeremiah 29:11-14 helpful in view of their loss and God's charge in 1-10? What does God's plan reference to for the nation of Israel? What do we know about God's plan for believers today (Jn 17:22-24; Rom 8:28-32, 38-39; Eph 1:3-6, 11-14; Heb 12:7-11; Jam 1:2-3; 1 Pet 5:10; 2 Pet 1:3-4; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Rev 21:1-6)? Lamentations consists of five chapters, each a poem lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem. How does Lamentations 1 describe the condition of Jerusalem? Do you find Lam 3:19-24 surprising in the midst of all this? Why or why not? How does he stem the tide of grief and despair (vs 21)? What attributes of the LORD are called to mind in Lam 3:22-23? How does this contrast with Lam 1:1-18? What conclusion does Jeremiah come to in 3:40-42?

Living It Out: Even though God's people experience the consequences of their sin, how does it help you to know that God still loves them? What makes it difficult to accept this love? How have you been able to call out to God in the midst of loss? Do you give yourself and others permission and time to grieve? Why or why not? Why do you think the Bible gives so many accounts of people grieving (Psalms, Lam, Job, etc.)? What loss in your life has led to significant grief? Were you able at some point in the process to focus on who God is? Why or why not? How long did you grieve? How will you keep calling on God this week? What will you call to mind about Him in light of your specific situation?

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Reading Plan

October 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26 Hosea 1:1-2:23	27 Hosea 6:1-11	28 Amos 2:6-16	29 Amos 3:1-15	30 2 Kings 17:1-40	1 Nahum 1:1-15
2	3 2 Kings 18:1-37	4 Isaiah 36:1-22	5 2 Kings 19:1-37	6 Isaiah 38:1-22	7 2 Kings 20:12-21	8 Psalm 41:1-23
9	10 Isaiah 1:1-31	11 Isaiah 6:1-13	12 Isaiah 7:1-25	13 Isaiah 11:1-16	14 Isaiah 46:1-13	15 Isaiah 53:1-12
16	17 Jer 1:1-19	18 Jer 7:1-34	19 Jer 18:1-23	20 Jer 29:1-32	21 Jer 31:27-40	22 Jer 23:1-40
23	24 Jer 33:1-26	25 Jer 37:1-27	26 Jer 38:1-28	27 Jer 39:1-18	28 2 Kings 25:1-21	29 Psalm 79:1-13
30	31 Lam 1:1-22	1 Lam 2:1-22	2 Lam 3:1-66	3 Lam 4:1-22	4 Lam 5:1-22	5 Psalm 137:1-9

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16	17 Jer 1:1-19	18 Jer 7:1-34	19 Jer 18:1-23	20 Jer 29:1-32	21 Jer 31:27-40	22 Jer 23:1-40
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