

Morning Mercies
“From the Depths” Series
Lamentations 3
May 10, 2020
Pastor Mickey Klink

In this passage God teaches us there is hope in our suffering and exhorts us to trust in his mercy.

The Text: Lamentations 3

- 1) A brief orientation to Lamentations 3.
- 2) Following the example of Christ, the Christian learns to join others in their suffering (vv. 1-18).
- 3) This chapter teaches us there is hope in God at the center of our suffering (vv. 22-33, 55-57).

Response

As apprentices of lament, we are learning that God is present with us in our suffering and our source of hope.

Sunday Text Questions for Lamentations 3 (“From the Depth” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: Reflect on this metaphor: “God has broad enough shoulders to cry on and a big enough chest to beat against.”
- 2) Read all of Lamentations 3. What is your reaction to the chapter as a whole?
- 3) How is the poetry and poetic language becoming easier to understand (hopefully!) and helpful for the topic of lament?
- 4) Read again vv. 1-6. How does the author in those verses reveal how he joins with the suffering of his people, the city of Jerusalem?
- 5) Since the Old Testament points us to Christ, how did Jesus “join with the suffering of his people,” and how can we do likewise?
- 6) Read carefully vv. 22-32, which is the center (the pinnacle) of the whole book of Lamentations. How do those verses help us hope in God in the midst of our suffering?
- 7) What exactly is v. 24 describing? How do we put our “hope in God?”
- 8) How might we misunderstand the message of Lamentations if we skip past the suffering of the rest of Lamentation and jump straight to 3:22-24?
- 9) If you are able, look up the lyrics to “Great if They Faithfulness,” a popular hymn. Is it a hymn of lament since it borrows words from Lam. 3? Does it speak of mercy with the proper mix of suffering?
- 10) How might lament balance the real experience of suffering with a real trust in God’s character and mercy?

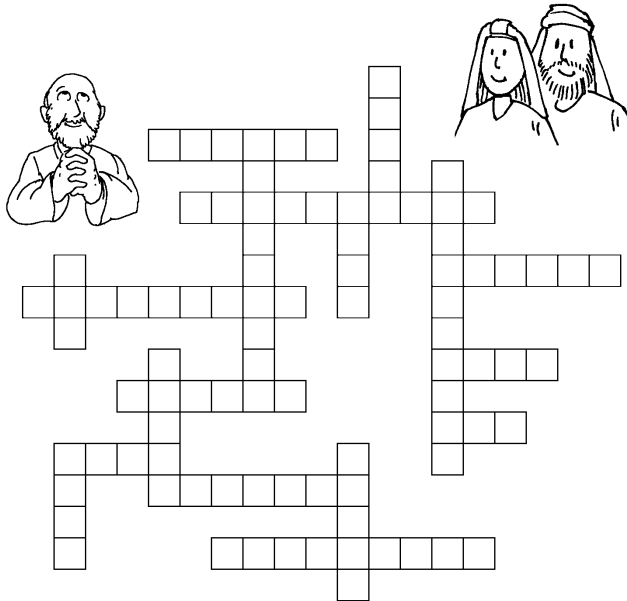
Further study this week: Read through all of 1 Peter this week, a book that frequently talks about hope in the midst of suffering: 1 Peter 1 (Mon); 1 Peter 2 (Tues); 1 Peter 3 (Wed); 1 Peter 4 (Thurs); 1 Peter 5 (Fri).



"The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him."

Fit the underlined words into the crossword.

"For people are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though He brings grief, He will show compassion, so great is His unfailing love. For He does not willingly bring affliction or grief to humankind."



Ages 7+

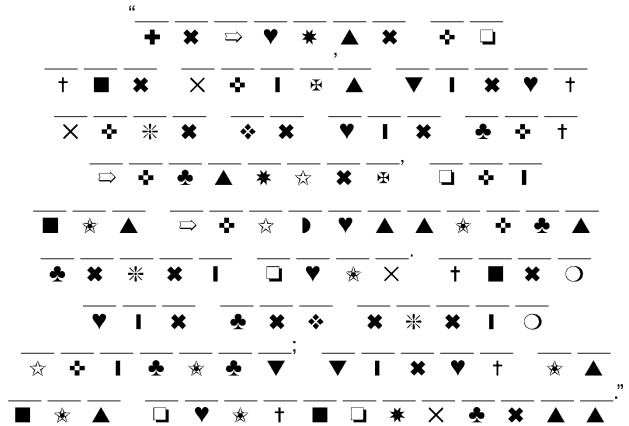
May 3, 2020 • Lamentations 3:19-33

God's Steadfast Love

The writer of Lamentations said something important about God's compassion. What was it?

What should we remember when we start to feel this way, that should give us hope again? Use the code to find out.

♥ = A	✕ = E	★ = I	☆ = M	☞ = Q	✱ = U	● = X
⊕ = B	□ = F	✈ = J	♣ = N	! = R	✱ = V	○ = Y
☞ = C	▼ = G	✓ = K	⊕ = O	▲ = S	⊕ = W	✱ = Z
✱ = D	■ = H	✕ = L	▷ = P	† = T		



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The writer also said, "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him."

Find 15 differences in the second picture.



It is good to learn to trust God while we are young, because we know His help when hard times come.

Shade in all the words connected with trouble to find what we always have to hold onto in hard times.

smiles	anger	love	loss	anger	teasing	misunderstandings		
								pain
blessing					emptiness			
mercy	illness	praise		obstacles			cruelty	insults
pain	temptation		fear	kindness		forgotten		
	hate			tears		tears		
	loss		grace	cruelty	friends	hate		
	sadness		togetherness			injustice	loss	
insults		tears			fear	protection	laughter	
	differences	illness	illness	cruelty		anger		
	poverty					understanding		
	tears							
	arguments	cruelty	confusion	fear	reward	loneliness		
fear								
	loss		selfishness		thanksgiving			
	awkwardness		isolation		mistakes			
					patience			
	hate	insults		burdens		division		
		pain	fighting			compassion		