

He Delights in Showing Mercy

Lamentations

The Lord's acts of mercy indeed do not end,
For His compassions do not fail.

They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
Therefore I wait for Him."

The Lord is good to those who ^[c]await Him,
To the person who seeks Him.

It is good that he waits silently
For the salvation of the Lord.

It is good for a man to bear
The yoke in his youth. Lamentations 3:22-25

1. God hears _____ . ()

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears And rescues them from all their troubles. Psalm 34:17

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
Psalm 145:18

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. I Peter 2:12
I waited patiently for the Lord; and he reached down to me and heard my cry. Psalm 40:1

*the desolation of the once proud city of Jerusalem.

*children begged food from their mothers ([Lamentations 2:12](#))

*young men and women were cut down by swords (2:21)

*formerly compassionate mothers used their children for food (4:10).

*even the city's roads mourned over its condition (1:4)!

*Jeremiah could not help but acknowledge the abject state of this city, piled with rubble.

2. Lament _____ is real.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me. Psalm 41

3. His mercy _____ over judgement.

Who is wise? Let him give heed to these things. And consider the lovingkindness of the Lord. Psalm 107:43

Your lovingkindness, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Psalm 36:5

My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26

I cried out to You, O Lord; I said you are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. Psalm 142:5

But God demonstrates His love toward us, when while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life. Romans 6:23

Small Group Questions

1. Share about a time or period of lament in your life – deep grief and sorrow. Do you feel comfortable bringing your grief to God? Why or why not?

2. Read Lamentations 3:19-25 together. Has there been a time in your life where God broke into your grief and sorrow? Share about a moment where you were overcome by the lovingkindness of the Lord. Read Psalm 73:26, Talk about when your heart was weak and failing but God gave you strength.
This is of great encouragement, to one another, as we strengthen our faith and belief in who God is among us. Testify of how HE BREAKS THROUGH!

3. Is it hard for you to embrace the lovingkindness of the Lord? or do you want to believe that God's judgement is greater than His lovingkindness?

Take some time this week to think about areas that you keep separate from God, and invite Him into your pain and grief. Part of receiving His lovingkindness is allowing yourself to step toward His kindness and mercy, by faith. Read Lamentations 3 to yourself dwelling on His lovingkindness and mercy.

“We are all so alone in what lies deepest in our souls, so unable to find the words and perhaps the courage to speak with unlocked hearts, that we do not know at all that it is the same with others.”

– **Sheldon Vanauken, A Severe Mercy**