



Series Discussion Questions

Series: Hope in a House of Blues, Pt. 1

Lamentations 1

Over the next four weeks we will look at Blues and Hope and we will do this in our sermon discussion questions by walking through the book of Lamentations. This book of the Old Testament expresses all four "Keys of D" that we will address in the sermons: Dread, Despair, Doubt and Death.

It would be good to read through the entire book of Lamentations either before the first week of the questions or after the first week to grab a bigger picture of what is going on.

INTRODUCE IT

As you read through Lamentations, the year is 586 BC and the book is a reflection on the Ancient city of Jerusalem after being destroyed by Babylon. The book in many ways is a prayer to God to please pay attention to the condition of Jerusalem and pleads for him to restore it. It is a prayer as well of confession of all the ways that God's children, the Israelites, had not listened to Him and therefore they are in the condition they are in. Yet it's a cry for mercy, and a request for hope in the midst of their blues.

Share as a group a time (and could even be now) in which you felt that all had been lost, life was at (or at least felt like) its lowest point; your deepest blues. Share as you are comfortable about what led to this. What were thoughts going through your head? What was your view of God during that time?

STUDY THE PASSAGE

Read Lamentations 1:1-4

Describe the condition of Jerusalem. What are all the ways that the author describes her? Compare as well to the way she was and the condition now.

Read Lamentations 1:5-10

Continue to describe the condition of Jerusalem. What is the reason Jerusalem is in this condition?

What do we see Jerusalem doing in this passage?

Today's sermon was about Dread. How was "dread" described in ways that stood out to you?

In what ways do you see dread in these passages?

In what ways have you seen dread in your own life?

There are many causes of dread. What is the cause of dread for Jerusalem?

Read Lamentations 1:11-22

In these passages, we see the consequence of continuous sin. List all the affects of sin shown here in these passages.

In what ways are you tempted to live a life thinking that God's grace is so huge that I can keep sinning and he will simply forgive it and we move on?

Not all blues are caused by sin, but many are. In what ways does this first chapter cause you to take seriously sin and its affects?

In what ways is God's grace displayed in these passages?

USE IT:

What are ways that this passage challenges you to take seriously your own sin? How would you hope to live differently even this week because of this first chapter?

Are there things that stood out to you in today's sermon that would also empower you to live differently this week?