



Life group lesson – **Lamentations**

Week of 10/26/14

## **Quick Review:**

What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening or troubling?

## **My Story:**

1. Have you ever given a warning to someone and they ignored the warning? How did it turn out?

## **Digging deeper:**

The Book of Lamentations was written by the prophet Jeremiah after the city of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Babylonians (King Nebuchadnezzar). The book is a funeral dirge. It expresses Jeremiah's sorrow for the state of his beloved city and nation. The heart of the book is found in Lamentations 3:23, "Great is Your Faithfulness." Even after experiencing unbelievable hardship and suffering Jeremiah is able to see the goodness of God. For decades he as a prophet had been warning God's people of the consequences of their sin. Jeremiah understood that what happened to Israel was not God's will but a consequence of their constant sin and rebellion. The book of Lamentations reveals the heart of the prophet for his nation. The book of Lamentations also gives us a view of life after the consequences of sin have devastated a nation. It behooves us, as proud and powerful Americans, to take a look at the picture it presents.

1. In Lamentations 1:1-11 Jeremiah gives a description of the city's destruction. Read Lamentations 1:1 and discuss the change in its status. Why does Jeremiah speak of it as a widow?
2. According to Lamentations 1:18-20; 2:14; 4:12-16; 4:22; why is the city in such a state?
3. What does Lamentations 1:19 mean when it says that Jerusalem called for its lovers but they deceived her?
4. Lamentations 2:1-9 speak of God's wrath on the city. Pick any 2 or three verses in this section and discuss the role of the Lord in the destruction of Jerusalem. Then discuss why the Lord would do such a thing to his people. What lesson does that teach America today?
5. According to Lamentations 2:19 what should the people's response be to all the suffering they were experiencing?
6. After giving a graphic description of personal suffering in Lamentations 3:1-20 the prophet looks at God's mercy as a basis for hope in the future. Having seen the great suffering recorded in Lamentations, now discuss its three most famous verses, 3:22-24. Where does the prophet find hope and why?
7. Read Lamentations 5:19-22. What is the key to restoration?

## **Taking It Home**

This week we saw what happened to Judah as a result of ignoring the warnings that God sent them. They refused to consider the consequences of their choices. They ignored warnings against idolatry, oppressing the poor, cheating in business, relying on foreign governments for security. The Lord sent prophets to warn them, but Judah ignored them. As you consider your life, are there consequences that you may be ignoring? Is there a relationship that needs healing, a habit that needs to be broken or a life change that needs to be made? Take a lesson from Lamentations—get started today on making changes and avoid the pain that may come from putting it off.