



LIFE
IS
HARD

GOD
IS
GOOD

Focus of Week 7:

The cries of Lamentations reflect the confidence that God is still present, listening and caring for them. The people of Jerusalem trust that God desires reconciliation and restoration.

Connect:

Your view of God shapes your faith. Often times our view of God goes uncritiqued.

1. What or who has been the biggest influence to how you view God?
2. How has this current message series influenced your view of God?

Discuss:

Lamentations does not offer a resolution to their suffering and grief. In Lamentations 3 there is a glimmer of hope that they would be reconciled to God and restored. However, in the book of Jeremiah, which many believe has the same author, restoration and reconciliation are key theological themes. This hope is based on God's faithfulness and his plan for his people and for creation.

Read Jeremiah 31:1-14.

3. What stands out to you from these verses? Why?
4. How would describe the relationship between God and Israel in these verses? How do they compare to what is happening in Lamentations?
5. These words of hope come during the aftermath of Jerusalem's capture and destruction. What impact do you think these words had? How do you think they would be received?
6. What do you learn about God from this passage? Why is that important?
7. Read Romans 5:6-11. What do you think of Paul's statement that we needed reconciliation with God?
8. Where have you seen this need for reconciliation in your own life and in your relationship with God?
9. Share a time in your spiritual journey where this need for God was noticeable? What did you do?
10. If you're not at the place of acknowledging your need for God or his reconciliation, what challenges do see with this idea?
11. What action do you need to take to apply the verses from this week or from Sunday's message?