



LIFE
IS
HARD

GOD
IS
GOOD

Focus of Week 2:

As Israel sat in shock, there was something missing that could have helped her begin the process of healing—compassion. The people you have in your life determine the direction and quality of your life. As we look at Israel’s suffering, we’ll discuss the compassion of God, the need to have a compassionate community and the challenge to extend compassion to others.

Connect:

How you view God says a lot about how you view your circumstances.

1. What was your experience with church or God growing up?
2. Are there one or two areas where you could say your view of God has changed over the years?

Discuss:

In Jewish culture, then and now, mourning was a community event. A strong sense of solidarity usually ensured that family and friends would gather round and minister to the mourner by their presence. Here, it seems that all compassion has disappeared.

Read Lamentations 1:12-20

3. What stands out to you from these verses? Why does that catch your attention?
4. Who seems to be causing all of Jerusalem’s suffering? Is God actively involved in doing these things, or are there other explanations for such wording? Consider Jeremiah 12:1 and Psalms 77:1-10.
5. How does the concept that Lamentations is an emotional explanation of Israel’s suffering impact how we understand these verses? Especially when compared to Jeremiah being a theological explanation and Kings being an historical explanation.
6. What stood out to you from Sunday’s message about compassion as a key to healing? Why?
7. Where do we see God’s compassion showing up in the story of Israel? How do we see God’s compassion through the life of Jesus?
8. Lamentations 1:20 says, “Lord, See my anguish” (see also Psalm 80). What is your typical response to God in the midst of hard circumstances? Do you pray? What kinds of prayers do you often express? Or do you ignore God, complain about God, complain to God?
9. How does seeing someone’s pain help bring healing? What things often stand in the way of us seeing other’s pain?
10. How do you see this week’s message applying to your life? What are the steps you feel you need to take?