



lament

— the CHURCH in CRISIS —

SUMMARY | How does the church respond to times of pain and hardship? Author and professor Soong-Chan Rah explains how Scripture models lament as an appropriate response to the reality of suffering in the world. He then explores why we see an absence of lament in Western Christianity and the dangers of wanting to quicken a time of grieving to return to a happier place.

Join *Discover the Word* and special guest, Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, as you explore Jeremiah and Lamentations to discover passages of Scripture that can reaffirm the value of lament.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Think back on a time when you experienced great loss. What was that grief like for you? Did you feel pressure (from yourself or others) to “get past” or “get over” grieving that loss?
2. [Read Lamentations 1](#). How does the honest confession of the state of Jerusalem echo the pain and emptiness you have experienced or someone you know has experienced? How might you provide a safe place for someone who is grieving to express their lament?
3. [Read Lamentations 3:19–33](#). Does this passage help you as you grieve your loss? How can expressing words like this or helping someone else express such words give space for those you know are grieving?
4. [Read Jeremiah 29:4–7](#). God, through the prophet Jeremiah, offered a message of hope for the people if they would accept their exile from their own land and seek the peace of the land in which they lived. If they rejected His command, they would choose from two unacceptable choices—hide away from the world in which they lived or to return to the idolatry that led to their punishment. As we see our own nation rebelling against biblical standards, we too can choose to hide from our responsibility as ambassadors of God's kingdom or live in idolatry. How can you pray for the “Babylon” that God has placed you in? How can you lament for what you wish would be, while not retreating and being ineffective?

Challenge



Think of a personal grief or a specific suffering in the world. Using [Lamentations 3](#) as a model, write your own lament to the Lord about the pain and injustices you see.

Remember to include a section where you acknowledge to God your hope in His character to bring about justice, righteousness, and healing.

Commit To Memory



I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss.

Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease.

Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

[Lamentations 3:20–23 NLT](#)

Prayer



Lord, we are all hurting right now. And we are surrounded by those who are grieving and in pain. Please give me a safe place to express the lament I feel deep in my soul. And help me to be that safe place for others to express their pain, so that together, we can find hope and healing in the confidence of your unfailing love.

Amen.

