

## EXILES – Lament

### Small Group Questions

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*The following questions are intended to start conversations.*

*Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.*

*Our preaching series this fall will explore the book of Jeremiah (Exiles). A set of questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories BEFORE you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming series.*

- In theology, the doctrine of divine impassibility suggests that God is not affected by the actions or emotions of creation (because God is separate from creation). Do you agree with this doctrine? Why?
- Read **Jeremiah 8:18-9:2**. What stands out in this text?
- Who is speaking these words—Jeremiah or God? What difference does this make?
- What metaphors capture your attention? What emotions are being expressed?
- Re-read **Jeremiah 8:21** (NLT): “I weep for the hurt of my people. I am stunned and silent, mute with grief.” What does this tell us about Jeremiah?
- Why is Jeremiah so broken by grief? Read **Jeremiah 8:4-12** for context.
- How does Jeremiah’s grief reflect how God feels?
- Grief or pain expressed to God in prayer is often referred to as lament. Read Psalm 13. What do you notice about this prayer? Would you be comfortable praying like this?
- The book of Psalms is approximately one third prayers of lament. What can this teach us about prayer?
- Walter Brueggemann points out that “these Psalms invite us into a more honest facing of the darkness. The reason the darkness may be faced and lived in is that even in the darkness, there is One to address.” What things do you lament?
- Take some time to lament these things together. Tell God how you feel. Be honest. Express your desire to trust him even in the darkness.