



1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

February 1, 2025

Lamentations: Hope in Times of Despair

Contact Us

14647 S. 50th Street,
Suite 16
Phoenix, Arizona
85044
480-584-6116

Links

Email

Website

Facebook

Previous Lessons

Text Prayer
Requests
Anytime 24/7



Foster Care Teens

Personal Care Items

We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens

See the sidebar for our new TEXT Prayer Request Line!
Simply text "I need prayer" to 844-533-3553 anytime, and our team of Prayer Warriors will be praying for you.

Remember
Midweek Thursday Youth service 7pm!

Sunday



Lamentations: Hope in Times of Despair

Last Sunday, we looked at an Old Testament Book that we don't talk about very much, **The Book of Lamentations**.

We talked about what was going on at the time and described the complete and total destruction of Jerusalem as the prophet Jeremiah helplessly watched his prophecies of doom and despair come to be.

We talked about the recent devastating wildfires in CA and imagined what it must feel like to lose everything you had in this world as you watched your city burn on the news. This is how Jeremiah felt as he wrote.

We also talked about how these events came to be with the continued sinfulness and ungodly behavior of the Jews despite repeated warnings of what would happen if they continued in their evil ways.

are being collected in the bin located on tables in the hall. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verses

Lamentations 5:21

21 Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

[Visit our website here!](#)

We mentioned that, at the time, Jeremiah and the Jews would have seen this as God punishing them for their disobedience. But, as we read it, after the cross, with eyes of grace, we can see it as the Jews receiving the natural worldly consequences of their sinful actions as God removed His protection and blessings. We also noted that while the Jews had completely abandoned God, He never abandoned them.

We then read through and discussed several verses and said that this short, 5 chapter, book was actually a very powerful prayer of sorrow and an expression of deep grief and despair as Jeremiah watched his city crumble. We said that the book was actually written, in Hebrew, as a series of five Acrostic poems with each verse beginning with a sequential letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

The book was not only filled with the deep sorrow and despair that Jeremiah felt, it is also full of hope in God's love and faithfulness that He will restore His people.

We said that God allowed the Jews to remain in exile for 70 years to allow their land "time to rest", as told in **Leviticus 25**, before they were allowed to return. Since they had not been following God's Law of allowing the land "time to rest", the land needed to be restored.

We agreed that there was a whole lot more than first meets the eye in this short little book of sorrow.

We said that while it first appears that God's purpose for Jeremiah was to save his people from destruction, surely God would know that the people would not listen and the destruction would happen anyway.

We said that perhaps Jeremiah's true purpose was to help bring his people back to God after the destruction. The book of Jeremiah not only has plenty of warnings, it is also full of hope in God's goodness and everlasting love. Jeremiah's name in Hebrew even literally means "**God will uplift**".

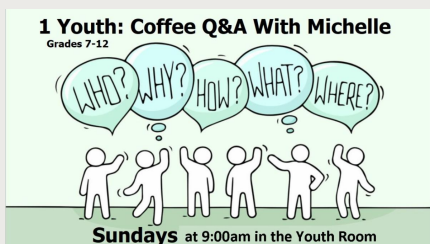
It turns out that all of the events described in Lamentations were actually a way for God to ultimately bring His people back to Him. But, how does this book that was written more than 2500 years ago relate to us today?

We said that when we think we know and are following God's purpose for us, don't be discouraged if God seems to change His mind midway because He may just be preparing us for His ultimate purpose which

will bring us all to Him.

We discussed some other things we could get from studying the lessons learned in Lamentations.

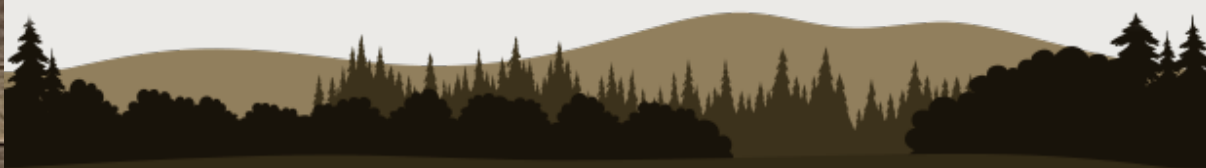
- Obviously, when we choose to disregard God's ways to follow our own worldly ways we will be subject to the consequences of the world rather than the blessings of God.
- In our darkest moments of deepest despair, we can always go to God for His peace & comfort.
- We can always bring our sorrow to God with questions, argue with Him, or even yell at Him, and He will always bring us peace and comfort.
- Even in the most hopeless situations, we can find hope in our faith and trust in God and know that He will get us through whatever trouble we get ourselves into.
- No matter what we do, God will always provide a way for us to return to Him.
- God will never, ever, abandon us even when we choose to abandon Him.



Pre-Service Coffee Q&A

Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



Living Word Ahwatukee
Phone: (480) 584-6116
Email: chris@1youthministry.com
Website: www.1youthministry.org

Connect with us



1 Youth Ministry | 14647 S. 50th Street, Suite 16 | Phoenix, AZ 85044 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!