

WHAT HASN'T CHANGED?

Our Hope in God's Faithfulness

Discussion Guide | April 26, 2020

Before you begin, please read Lamentations 3:19-26

1. What has changed because of COVID-19 – both in your own life very directly, and more generally around you?
2. How have some of these changes brought grief and sadness? Why is it important to acknowledge (and not avoid) this grief?
3. Think back to the historical context of Lamentations (written in the midst of the Fall of Jerusalem and the exile of God's people) and scan the first two and a half chapters of Lamentations. From your scan of these first two and a half chapters, create a short list of verses that highlight the suffering and severe circumstances God's people were facing.
4. Why is it valuable to know that God's Word speaks to times of crisis and disruption?
5. Now focus on Lamentations 3:21-24. What truths about who God is does the author of Lamentations focus on?
6. What truths about God do you need to focus on in a special way in this season? What does it look like to "marinate" in these truths, so they influence your life?
7. Don't miss Lamentations 3:21 – the author of Lamentation very intentionally chooses what he's going to focus on. Why is CHOOSING what you're going to focus on so important?
8. Read Philippians 4:6-8 and Romans 12:2. What do these verses add to the value of choosing to focus on God and His ways?
9. What are some practical ways to pivot or redirect your thoughts toward God and His ways, when you sense your mind wandering in a negative direction?
10. The title of this current series is "What Hasn't Changed?" What's one way you would answer this question, based on what you've learned from Lamentations 3:21-26? What practical difference can this make in your life this coming week?
11. **Challenge - Memorize Lamentations 3:21-23:** "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."