

SERMON STUDY QUESTIONS

Welcome

- 1) Have you, or someone you know, ever experienced a house fire? What was that experience like?
- 2) What do you remember about the first funeral you attended?

Word

Read Lamentations 1:1-4 & 5:20-22

- 1) How do you see pain acknowledged, shared, and the hope of healing revealed in these verses?
- 2) How does living in denial of the possibility of suffering put you in a place where you have no comfort when the day of suffering comes?
- 3) How does honest lament before God open the door for the comfort of God to come?
- 4) Do you think American Christians in general have been schooled in denial? Why or why not?
- 5) What has been your experience with funerals, have they been a place to cheer people up or a place to allow people to lament and mourn?

Read Psalm 102:1-12

- 1) Have you joined in the practice of praying the psalms? What has that experience been like? What are the advantages and challenges of praying a psalm everyday?
- 2) What afflictions does the psalmist mention in this lament?
- 3) Why does he describe himself like a desert owl (or vulture) in verse 6? What feeling does this metaphor communicate?
- 4) How does praying the psalm school us in the art of lament?
- 5) How does lamenting open you up to the comfort of another?

Read Lamentations 3:16-26

- 1) How do you see lament and comfort at work in this passage?
- 2) How does the comfort of God overcome the lament of man?

Work

- 1) What steps do you need to take to break through denial?
- 2) How can you prepare yourself to lament in the day of suffering?

Worship

- 1) Psalm for the Day - Sun: 101 / Mon: 102 / Tue: 103 / Wed: 104 / Thu: 105 / Fri: 106 / Sat: 107
- 2) Pray for one another, particularly those in need of comfort