



City of Tears

When will God comfort?

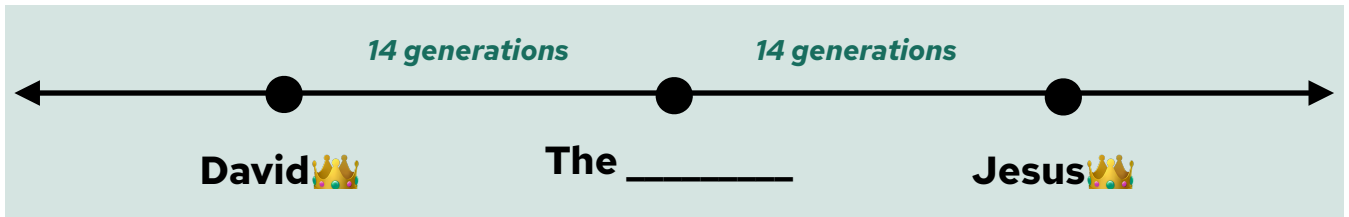
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GUIDE TO LAMENTATIONS

ACTIVITY 1: WHERE IS LAMENTATIONS IN THE BIBLE STORY?

The Gospel of **Matthew** traces the history of the Old Testament, through Abraham to Jesus. Look up Matthew 1:17, and fill in the timeline with the missing event!



Exile means being removed from your land. Lamentations is a book written about the **destruction** of God's special city Jerusalem and **the exile** of God's special people, Israel.

How do you think God's people would've been feeling? Choose some words and an emoji.

ACTIVITY 2: A BIT OF POETRY

Open up your bible to the book of Lamentations. Lamentations is a set of (write a number) chapters, each of which is a poem.

The poems are **acrostic**, which means each sentence starts with the next letter of the alphabet. Try write an acrostic poem yourself below. *If you want a challenge, write the poem about how God's people would've been feeling with their home destroyed.*

A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

LAMENTATIONS 3: CURE

In Lamentations, the middle is very important, because we see God's cure for the catastrophe. Read Lamentations 3:31-33.



In this poem, the pronoun is "I" (Poet). Circle each time it says 'I'.

- 1 I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the Lord's wrath.
- 2 He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light;

**GOD'S
JUDGEMENT
ON ISRAEL**

What does the poet have hope in?

- 20 I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.
- 21 Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
- 22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
- 23 They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
- 24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."
- 25 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;
- 26 it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

HOPE

Write out the middle verses (v31-33).
Why are they important?

- ...
- 31 _____
 - 32 _____
 - 33 _____

Why is the poet calling out for God to judge other nations?

- 59 Lord, you have seen the wrong done to me.
Uphold my cause!
- 66 Pursue them in anger and destroy them
from under the heavens of the Lord.

**GOD'S
JUDGEMENT
ON ISRAEL'S
ENEMIES**

LAMENTATIONS 4: CONSEQUENCE



In this poem, the pronoun is "They" (Israel). Circle each time it says 'They' or 'those'.

- 5 Those who once ate delicacies are destitute in the streets. Those brought up in royal purple now lie on ash heaps.
- 6 The punishment of my people is greater than that of Sodom, which was overthrown in a moment without a hand turned to help her.

Clue: The poet describes the reason for Israel's suffering as the punishment of God.

Draw what life was like in the exile...



A large dashed rectangular box for drawing.

LAMENTATIONS 5: CRY

In this poem, the pronoun is "We" (God). Circle each time it says 'We' or 'us'.



- 19 You, Lord, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation.
- 20 Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long?
- 21 Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old
- 22 unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.

Circle all the words that begin with the letter 'R'.

Now, think about the big bible story. How does God **restore**, **return** and **renew** his people?



Pray: Thank God that Jesus took God's anger for us, and that Jesus will return with the New Jerusalem (= "heaven").