

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God includes a sad book like Lamentations in His Word?
2. How hard do you think it would have been for Jeremiah to see the destruction of Jerusalem?
3. How does focusing on God's daily mercies keep our perspective on life right?
4. How is the LORD our portion?
5. Why is knowing that we have a clean slate through Jesus important?
6. How can we make Christ the focus this new year?

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Answers to fill in the blanks:
(1) JERUSALEM (2) GRIEF (3) JEREMIAH (4) WEEPING (5) TEMPLE (6) ENCOURAGING (7) HESSED
(8) PEOPLE (9) STILL THERE (10) LIFE, BREATH, WATER, BREAD, CLOTHING, NEW DAY (11)
DIVIDE (12) THE LORD (13) THE CROSS (14) CLEAN SLATE (15) NEVER CHANGES (16) FORGET

Sermon Study Guide
Pastor Phil Newby – December 30, 2018

SERMON NOTES

A CLEAN SLATE LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24

WHAT IS THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS ABOUT?

- 1) It is a lament over the destruction of _____ by the Babylonians in 586BC. (2 Kings 25, Jeremiah 40-44)
- 2) A *lament* is a passionate expression of _____ or sorrow.
- 3) The prophet _____ is the author and wrote to encourage the Israelites to repent of their sins and turn to God for hope.
- 4) He is known as the _____ prophet since he often cried because the people of Israel would not listen to God.
- 5) The book is arranged in Hebrew alphabet acrostics and is read to remember the destruction of the _____.

FROM HEARTBREAK TO HOPE

- 6) In the midst of the saddest book in the Bible is a passage that is one of the most _____ in all of Scripture:

Lamentations 3:22–24 (CSB)

²² Because of the LORD's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end.

²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!

²⁴ I say, "The LORD is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in him."

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

Lamentations 3:22

²² Because of the LORD's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end.

7) *Faithful love* in Hebrew is _____ which wraps grace, faithfulness, compassion and love all into one. Closest comparison in the N.T. is agape love. (Exodus 34:6)

8) Because God and His love never perishes, neither will His _____ or His mercies toward them.

Lamentations 3:23

²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!

9) It is hard to see God's mercy and compassion when it seems everything is going wrong, yet they are _____.

10) Daily mercies remind us of God's great faithfulness! These include:

_____, _____, _____

_____, _____, _____

Lamentations 3:24

²⁴ I say, "The LORD is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in him."

11) *Portion* comes from the root meaning to _____.

12) Just like the Levites, our only portion needed is _____!
(Numbers 18:20)

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED

THE GREATEST ACT OF FAITHFUL LOVE

13) The greatest expression of the LORD's faithful love and compassion is the _____.

14) Through Jesus Christ we have a _____!

1 John 1:7 (CSB)

⁷ If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNING

15) Don't start the new year focusing on what you need to change, but focus on the One who _____!

1 Timothy 4:8 (CSB)

⁸ For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

16) We can _____ the past with all its pain and suffering, knowing that all we need is Jesus Christ. He is our portion!

Philippians 3:13-14 (CSB)

Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.