

Life Group Discussion Guide: The Lament of God (Week 3)

Scripture Focus: Jeremiah 2:1-13

This guide is designed to help our groups practice the mission of the church together through the framework of **Up, In, and Out**. Whether you are a new group or have been together for years, use these questions to spur one another toward our shared vision.

Ice Breakers: Breaking the Ice

Goal: To explore the themes of memory, loyalty, and disappointment in a relatable way.

1. What is a "vintage" item or a childhood memory that you still hold onto with great affection?
2. Have you ever bought something brand new that turned out to be a total "lemon" (it broke or didn't work)? How did you feel?
3. What is your favorite source of water (a specific brand, a mountain spring, a favorite water bottle)?
4. When you were a teenager, did you ever "rebel" in a way that you now look back on and think, "What was I thinking?"
5. If you could go back to the "early days" of your faith, what is one thing you miss about that season?

UP: Connecting with God

Goal: To focus on God's heart, His faithfulness, and the nature of "Living Water."

1. In **Jeremiah 2:2**, God remembers the "devotion of your youth" and "your love as a bride." What does this romantic language tell us about how God views His relationship with His people?
2. God asks, "What fault did your ancestors find in me?" (**v. 5**). As we look at the character of God, is there any legitimate reason for us to drift away from Him?
3. **Jeremiah 2:13** describes two evils: forsaking the Fountain of Living Waters and digging broken cisterns. Why is it an "evil" to try to satisfy our souls with things other than God?
4. How does the image of "Living Water" contrast with the "broken cisterns" of the world? (See **John 4:13-14**).
5. This passage is titled "The Lament of God." How does it change your view of God to realize that He can be "hurt" or "grieved" by our wandering?

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Psalms 36:9**: "For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light."
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IN: Connecting with the Life Group

Goal: To encourage honesty about our "cisterns" and support one another in returning to God.

1. Verse 6 notes that the people stopped asking, "Where is the Lord?" How can we as a group help each other keep God at the center of our daily conversations?
2. What are some "broken cisterns" (money, status, relationships, distractions) that we commonly turn to in our current culture instead of God?
3. In **v. 11**, God points out that even pagan nations don't change their (fake) gods, yet His people changed their Glory for "that which does not profit." Why is it sometimes easier to be "loyal" to worldly habits than to God?
4. How can we as a Life Group create a safe space where we can admit when we feel "spiritually dry" without feeling judged?
5. Looking at the "desert" mentioned in **v. 6**, how can we better support a group member who feels they are currently walking through a "land of drought and deep darkness"?

Supporting Scriptures:

- **James 5:16:** On the healing power of confessing our struggles to one another.
- **Hebrews 3:13:** Encouraging one another daily so hearts aren't hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

OUT: Connecting with the World

Goal: To identify the "thirst" in our community and offer the only source that satisfies.

1. The world is full of people trying to fix "broken cisterns." What are the signs of "leaky lives" (unmet needs/dissatisfaction) you see in your workplace or neighborhood?
2. God calls the heavens to be "appalled" and "shocked" (**v. 12**) at Israel's choices. How can we winsomely show the world that life without God is actually a tragedy, not just a "preference"?
3. If God laments over the lost, how should His "lament" shape our church's outreach and missions? Are we grieved by what grieves Him?
4. **Jeremiah 2:7** says God brought them into a "plentiful land," but they defiled it. How can we, as a group, better care for the "land" (our local environment and community) as a reflection of God's goodness?
5. Who is one person you know who is currently "thirsty"? How can you personally point them toward the "Fountain of Living Waters" this week?

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Revelation 22:17:** The invitation for "the one who is thirsty" to come and take the water of life.
- **Isaiah 55:1:** "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters.