

ULC Sermon Study Resource

The Steadfast Love

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite book genre?

Reading: Lamentations 3:19-39

Outline:

- I. Rooted in the Past (Lamentations 3:19-24)
 - a. When God asks Jeremiah to remember what he has faced in the past, Jeremiah is moved to hope as he remembers the covenant love of God.
 - b. Remembering teaches us to actually seek God's presence. It gives us
 - c. a reason to trust God is present, even when it doesn't feel like it.
Q: *Where has God been present in your life?*
- II. Aimed Toward Future (Lamentations 3:25-36)
 - a. Waiting means bearing the yoke/burden of suffering. The one who bears this in faith will see what is on the other side of suffering.
 - b. God's ultimate goal is to lead us to his grace and mercy. Even in suffering, God is seeking to draw us to himself.
Q: *Has God told you to wait?*
- III. Sustains us in the Present (Lamentations 3:37-39)
 - a. When our hope is placed in Jesus and what he has done we can be confident that whatever we experience in the present, God reigns over it all
 - b. The entire spectrum of the human experience, from the highest highs to the lowest lows, from indescribable joy to completely unutterable pain, God is present and active in the midst of it all.
Q: *Where is God active right now?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Is remembering the past easy or hard? What can make it either?
- 2) What does waiting look like in your life?
- 3) How does God resemble steadfast love?
- 4) How do we respond to God's covenant of love?

Suggestions for further study:

- Hosea 6:1-2 **Q: *How is God ultimately steadfast in our suffering?***
- Romans 5:1-5 **Q: *What are the ramifications of Faith in Christ?***

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, you call us to be a people of hope because we can be confident that you have acted for our sake in history. Because of that, we can be confident in the future that you have in store for us. You use our joys and our pains to bring about your perfect plan for our lives. Lord, we pray that your spirit would rest on us, that our confidence wouldn't be in what we can accomplish or having our lives work out perfectly how we think. But that our confidence would be in you. Father, may we find our hope in you. Amen.

