

Wednesday

Read: **Jeremiah 8:20-21** *How long?*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What hurts of our people today are calling to your heart?*
2. *What do you think of God/Jeremiah telling the people the good times are over?*

Prayer Focus No other god feels such pain as you do, Redeemer. No other god weeps with us and for us. Thank you for loving us even when we must face our destructive behavior. We humbly acknowledge your passion for saving us, for saving all souls.

Thursday

Read: **Jeremiah 8:22** *Why no steps to wholeness?*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *We are church-going Christians, aren't we? Why might God take issue with us?*
2. *What could we do to restore health to our lives? To the world?*

Prayer Focus Sometimes we look everywhere other than to you, God, to fill our emptiness and make us whole. Those things do not bring healing or wholeness. Remind us that only your kind of healing can cover all our needs.

Friday

Read: **Jeremiah 9:1** *Grief overflowing*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does the prophet want to weep so much? What might it accomplish to go through that grief?*
2. *Do you have a story of God's healing to share with others? Will you offer that truth to someone this week?*

Prayer Focus Your compassion is our hope. That you and your prophet felt so much grief speaks to both your love and your care. Help us to weep with you, to name our sins, and to look to you to heal us and to heal through us.

True Compassion

Pastor's message: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Message Notes: God's compassion invites us to go beyond slogans, shouts, and sermons and to do serve to real people in need. Let's show them that there is a balm in Gilead and his name is Jesus.

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What for you is the best part of returning to work/school/activity for the fall?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Jeremiah 8:18-9:1**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)



TRUE COMPASSION September 18, 2022

Monday

Read: Jeremiah 8:18-19a *Where is God?*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Jeremiah is deeply troubled about the real presence of God in the world. Why are people crying out today?*
2. *Have you ever wondered if God is truly paying attention to our troubled world? Is God in our land?*

Prayer Focus God, you and Jeremiah are entwined in your unhappiness with us. You have such hope and love and we've disappointed you. We've bragged about being your people even as we've neglected your ways. We hear your call to face the truth.

Tuesday

Read: Jeremiah 8:19b *Why did they turn away?*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Do you feel it's wrong for God to be angry with us? (We're only human!)*
2. *What things of this world seem to distract you this week? How do you respond?*

Prayer Focus It's difficult to hear your anger with us, God. We have headed off in the wrong direction so often as the world pulls us away from you. But you are the God whose anger is not some whim. It's the anger of a parent watching a child messing up their life. Help us choose you again.