



Day 1 *Faithfulness*

Silence (2 minutes) Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

Scripture *"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion, therefore I will wait for Him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him."* Lamentations 3:21-25

Discussion Lamentations is predominantly a series of laments or expressions of passionate grief for the siege, famine, destruction, and conquering of Jerusalem and their exile to Babylon. These are God's punishments for Judah's sin. At the center of these laments, beginning with this passage, is a striking expression of hope in God. Even in the midst of God's punishment His character is love, compassion, and faithfulness. God corrects us because He is our Father. *"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent His rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a Father the son He delights in."* (Pr. 3:11-12) So, even if we are experiencing a painful correction by God, we can know His character is the same; that He loves us. We will not be destroyed and God will continue to have daily compassion on us. He is faithful to us. In the midst of being disciplined we have the responsibility to maintain our hope in God's character and salvation and to seek Him. God is good to those who do.

Application Because of Christ's payment for our sins through His death and resurrection we will never be punished by God for what we do. Consider the difference between correction and punishment in your own life. Are there any areas where you might have grown discouraged by God's discipline? Take some time today to ask God where He may be seeking to reveal His love to you through His correction.

Prayer *"Father, I praise You that You are "slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."* (Ex. 34:6) I pray that I am obedient to You so that I do not need to be disciplined. But, if You do choose to discipline me, I acknowledge that it is because You love me. I will acknowledge that You remain my hope and my salvation. *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* (Jn. 6:68) I will commit myself to repent, to seek You, and honor you as God in the midst of Your discipline. I praise You that You are good. Amen.

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture memory for the week:

"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope. Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:21-23

