

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Hope

Thanksgiving

Hope

Peace

Thanksgiving

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Peace

Joy

Thanksgiving

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love



BREAK THROUGH

Open Our Hearts • *Today*

Face Our Giants • Jan 10

Encourage Our People • Jan 17

Lament

In a time of acute crisis, when death sneaks into houses and shops, when you may feel healthy yourself, but you may be carrying the virus without knowing it, when every stranger on the street is a threat, ...

God and the Pandemic, N.T. Wright (Zondervan, 2020)

when we go around in masks, when churches are shut and people are dying with nobody to pray besides their bedside – this is a time for lament.

God and the Pandemic, N.T. Wright (Zondervan, 2020)

Lament for a Son – *Nicholas Wolterstorff*

**Walking with God through Pain
and Suffering** – *Timothy Keller*

Prophetic Lament – *Soong-Chan Rah*

God and the Pandemic – *N.T. Wright*

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Laments are prayers of petition arising out of need.

Soong-Chan Rah

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.

Psalm 139:4 (NIV)

Psalms

3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21,
22, 25, 26, 28, 31, 35, 38, 42, 43, 44, 51,
54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 69,
70, 71, 74, 79, 80, 83, 86, 88, 90, 94,
102, 109, 120, 130, 131, 132, 139, 140,
141, 143

1. Cry out to God.

- ¹ I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me.
- ² When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;
at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.
- ³ I remembered you, God, and I groaned;
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.

Psalm 77:1-3 (NIV)

¹ I cry aloud to the LORD;
I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy.
² I pour out before him my complaint;
before him I tell my trouble.

Psalm 142:1-2 (NIV)

1. Cry out to God.

2. Be raw. Tell God how you feel.

¹ After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. ² He said:
³ “May the day of my birth perish, and the night that said, ‘A boy is conceived!’”

Job 3: 1-3 (NIV)

- 14 Why, LORD, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?
- 15 From my youth I have suffered and been close to death;
I have borne your terrors and am in despair.
- 16 Your wrath has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me.
- 17 All day long they surround me like a flood;
they have completely engulfed me.
- 18 You have taken from me friend and neighbor—
darkness is my closest friend.

Psalm 88:14–18 (NIV 2011)

I have no explanation. I can do nothing else than endure in the face of this deepest and most painful of mysteries. I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and resurrecter of Jesus Christ. I also believe that my son's life was cut off in its prime. I cannot fit these pieces together. I am at a loss. I have read the theodicies produced to justify the ways of God to man. I find them unconvincing. ...

Nicholas Wolterstorff – Lament for a Son

To the most agonized question I have ever asked I do not even know the answer. I do not know why God would watch him fall. I do not know why God would watch me wounded. I cannot even guess.

Nicholas Wolterstorff – Lament for a Son

- 1. Cry out to God.**
- 2. Be raw. Tell God how you feel.**
- 3. Make some changes.**

⁸ Because of this I will weep and wail;
I will go about barefoot and naked.
I will howl like a jackal
and moan like an owl.

Micah 1:8 (NIV)

¹⁶ Shave your head in mourning
for the children in whom you delight;
make yourself as bald as the vulture,
for they will go from you into exile.

Micah 1:16 (NIV)

³⁰ They will raise their voice
and cry bitterly over you;
they will sprinkle dust on their heads
and roll in ashes.

Ezekiel 27:30 (NIV)

³ In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Esther 4:3 (NIV)

**¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

³ He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3 (NIV)

⁵ Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

Psalm 126:5 (NIV)

**“Sometimes I feel like a
Motherless Child”**

“Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen”

“Hold On”

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

Which of these emotions have
you experienced recently?
*(anger, sadness, frustration, hopelessness,
loneliness, grief, impatience)*

Take a moment to talk to God about those
emotions and why you've felt that way.