



## RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 14/6/20

### RETURNING FROM THE DISRUPTION OF EXILE PART 1: "GRIEVING"

**Please note:** As always, the following questions are discussion starters to the topic of faith. Feel free to explore what faith is as you begin your discussion.

**Bible Reading:** Psalm 137:1-4 & Jeremiah 31:3

*By the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.*

*There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs,  
our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, Sing us one of the songs of Zion!  
How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?*

*The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.'*

The Psalm reading is in the form of an expression of lament. I read that there are more lament expressions in the Scriptures than there are expressions of praise.

**Lament:** Hebrew צָפַח, 'saw-fad'; a primitive root; properly, to tear the hair and beat the breasts; generally to lament; by implication, to wail: lament, mourn.

Grief could also be used for lament.

- 1) As you look back on your life, what are some of the events or situations that have caused you to lament/grieve?
- 2) What causes (or is causing) you to grieve now?
- 3) How does your faith (in God) help you through your period of lamentation?

I heard someone say last week that disruption can be a time for God to do something new. Now that we are living with the reality of Covid-19, it does mean things will change, especially in the way that we 'do' church. How that will look is not yet totally clear but there will be restrictions around group singing, passing the offering bags, distancing between people and cleaning requirements. As you consider this:

**4) What could be some of the reasons that people will grieve over or for?**

As you review the Biblical history of God's people, from the Exodus out of Egypt, the wilderness, the exile and even Rosanna Baptist Church:

**5) How does Jeremiah 31:3** The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness,' help us with the grieving process?

**6) What can we do to help lessen the grief that people may feel as we resume meeting together?**

**Prayer:**

Lord, we know that you are faithful over all things, even the hard, dark times of our lives. Help us not back away from you in our time of grief. Help us instead to lean into you and trust you, even when we do not understand your ways. Please keep our heads above the waters of anguish and our feet from slipping off the ground of truth. Help us to see you in these hard moments and glorify you in our response. In Jesus' Name.

Amen.

**Next Sunday:** Returning from the Disruption of Exile Part 2: 'Grumbling'