

# SMALL GROUP STUDY

## A Funeral Song

This is a sorrowful lament about the death of a nation, the nation of Israel. This section of the scripture is part of the Meggiloth. It is read on the 9th of Av - this is the commemoration of the destruction of Solomon's temple. The five chapters of Lamentations are five different dirges of a funeral song.

## Five Dirges

The people cry out to the Lord, but none of those cries are answered. The people of Israel are being punished at the hands of enemy nations. Judgment came because of the sins of the prophets and the iniquities of the priests. There was no fear of the Lord among the leaders or the people. Jeremiah had the hard job of telling the people of God's judgment and it broke his heart. In the final dirge Jeremiah gives a simple a prayer for the captives.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. What value is there in studying such a sorrowful book?
- b. In what four ways do people try to handle their sin? Which is the biblical way?
- c. How is God's chastening similar to a parents chastening of a child? What happens to a child who is not chastened?
- d. Examine your heart: What breaks your heart? What makes you laugh? What makes you cry?
- e. Why did Jeremiah feel isolated?
- f. Examine your heart: What steps do you take when you feel isolated and hopeless?
- g. What did Jeremiah do in order to restore his hope?
- h. What lessons can you learn from Jeremiah and how he handled his feelings of isolation and his loss of hope?
- i. Examine your heart: On the road of life, do you focus on the bumps in the road (the bad stuff) or do you focus on all the road without bumps?