

Message Notes

“How Long?” – Psalm 79

Psalm 79 is a song of corporate lament.

The common structure of community lament:

- Lament
- Questions
- Prayer
- Hope

Key to the question is not why but how long?

Hope involves deliverance and forgiveness.

LifeConnect Group Discussion Questions

- What is being lamented in Psalm 79?
- Did God feel like the people of Jerusalem had been “servants” (v. 2)?
- How did the exile make the God of the Jews look?
- Is the expression, “How long, O Lord?” an expression of trust or self-pity?
- What do the people ask God to do in this lament? Are they responsible for what has happened? Who is?
- In Israel’s view, how would avenging the blood of his people be in God’s best interest?
- How much space is given to repentance? Praise? Seeking vengeance?
- How would you react to such prayers if you were God?
- How would you react if the events recorded in verses 1-4 were happening in this congregation? In our community?
- Has distress ever given the congregation or community cause to pull together?
- Are you asking, “How long?” right now? What makes you impatient? How can your group care for you through it?
- Take some time and write a psalm of lament on your own. Present it to God in faith and journal your experience.