

"I thank God for pain, I cannot think of a greater gift I could give to my leprosy patients... Most people view pain as an enemy. Yet without it, heart attacks, strokes, ruptured appendixes, and stomach ulcers would all occur without any warning.



Who would ever visit a doctor apart from pain's warnings?"

### - Dr. Paul Brand



"Your kingdom come..."

### Matthew 6:10





1. The rule and reign of God



- 1. The rule and reign of God
- 2. The renewal of all things



If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 11:20



And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

Matthew 10:7-8

- 1. The rule and reign of God
- 2. The renewal of all things



"Your kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:10



# All of our pain in life points us to where God's Kingdom has not yet come.



### WORLD + LIFE



WORLD + LIFE

Peace + Unity  $\rightarrow$  Strife + Conflict



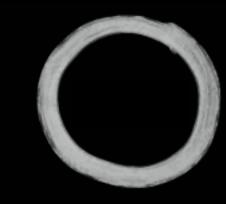
WORLD + LIFE

Peace + Unity ->

Strife + Conflict

Rest for our souls ->

Anxiety + Worry



WORLD + LIFE

Peace + Unity -> Strife + Conflict

Rest for our souls  $\rightarrow$  Anxiety + Worry

Worship of God  $\rightarrow$  Worship of Self



WORLD + LIFE

Peace + Unity → Strife + Conflict
Rest for our souls → Anxiety + Worry
Worship of God → Worship of Self
Flourishing → Suffering



WORLD + LIFE

Strife + Conflict Peace + Unity Rest for our souls Anxiety + Worry Worship of Self Worship of God  $\longrightarrow$ Suffering Flourishing  $\longrightarrow$ Sickness Healing



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Strife + Conflict Peace + Unity Rest for our souls Anxiety + Worry Worship of Self Worship of God  $\longrightarrow$ Suffering Flourishing  $\longrightarrow$ Sickness Healing  $\longrightarrow$ Generosity Greed



WORLD + LIFE

Peace + Unity -> Strife + Conflict

Rest for our souls  $\rightarrow$  Anxiety + Worry

Worship of God  $\rightarrow$  Worship of Self

Flourishing -> Suffering

Healing — Sickness

Generosity -> Greed

Love one another  $\rightarrow$  Use one another

# To lament is to bring our pain and grief to God in sorrowful yet hope-filled prayer.



"Lament is the honest cry of a hurting heart wrestling with the paradox of pain and the promise of God's goodness."

# -Mark Vroegop



# Reasons We Don't Lament:



## Reasons We Don't Lament:

1. We run from pain.



"It is better that the human heart feel grief and be cured of it, than by not feeling any grief and becoming inhuman."

# - Augustine



## Reasons We Don't Lament:

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### Reasons We Don't Lament:

- 1. We run from pain.
- 2. We grieve, just not to God.



"Lament is different from crying because lament is a form of prayer. It is more than just the expression of sorrow or the venting of emotion. Lament talks to God about pain. And it has a unique purpose: trust.



It is a divinely-given invitation to pour out our fears, frustrations, and sorrows for the purpose of helping us to renew our confidence in God...Lament is the prayer language for God's people as they live in a world marred by sin.



It is how we talk to God about our sorrows as we renew our hope in his sovereign care. To cry is human, but to lament is Christian."

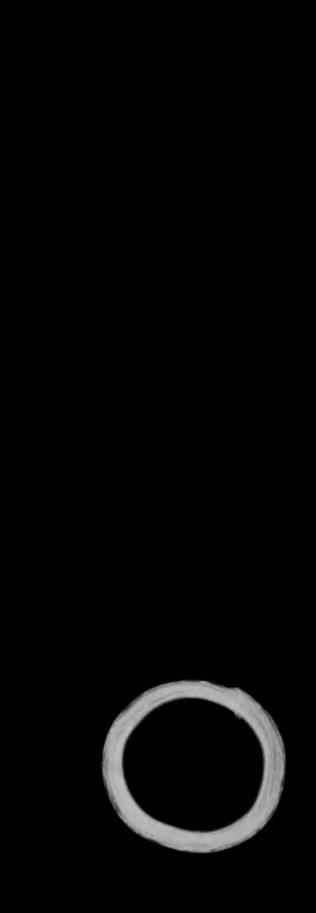
### -Mark Vroegop



"Without lament, we feel and emote without also inviting truth to reign in our hearts and our hope to rest in God."

### - Christine Hoover





# Lament Practice



# Invite God to be near you in your pain Psalm 13:1



# Describe your pain to God Psalm 13:2



# Depend on Him

Psalm 13:3-4



# Dwell on His character and faithfulness Psalm 13:5

