

## Hope in the Midst of Affliction - Lamentations 3:1-66

**Topics:** Anger, Compassion, Enemies, Faithfulness, God, Hope, Judgment, Justice, Love, Mercy, People, Perseverance, Prayer, Punishment, Repentance, Suffering

### Open It

1. If you were to portray pain and suffering through poetry, music, or painting, which one medium would you choose? Why?
- \* 2. What gives you hope when you are troubled?

### Explore It

3. How did the writer identify with the sufferings of the people of Judah? (3:1-18)
4. To whom were the sufferings of the people directly attributed? (3:1-18)
- \* 5. What did the poet recall? (3:19-21)
- \* 6. In the middle of lamenting the siege and destruction of Jerusalem, what profound assurance did the writer express? (3:22-24)
7. What virtues were affirmed by the author? (3:25-27)
- \* 8. How was God's mercy revealed in suffering? (3:28-33)
9. What was intolerable to the Lord? (3:34-36)
10. How did the writer describe the nature of God's knowledge? (3:37-38)
11. What did the writer say about sin and suffering? (3:39)
12. In identifying with God's people, what did the poet urge them to do? (3:40-42)
13. How did the writer describe the sorrows of sin? (3:43-54)
14. What was the prayer of the penitent sinner? (3:55-66)
15. How did the prayer include both comfort and cursing? (3:55-66)

### Get It

16. What valuable lessons have you learned through personal suffering?
17. How have you been affected by God's hand of discipline?
18. What do you know about the mercies of God in the middle of difficulty?
- \* 19. Why does relying on God give you hope?
- \* 20. What message of hope can we offer to people who are in despair?
21. If the author of Lamentations wrote a letter to your congregation, what specific call to repentance would be given?

### Apply It

- \* 22. To whom could you write a supportive letter (or make a phone call) to provide a word of encouragement and hope?
23. When can you spend some time in prayer to thank the Lord for His faithfulness and acts of mercy in your life?