

Jeremiah 39



Reading Jeremiah 39

1. Have you ever seen a building demolished? How did it feel?
2. Read Jer 39: 1–9. Think back over the sermons about the slaves in Jer 34, the Rekabites in Jer 35, the burning of the scroll in Jer 36, the treatment of Jeremiah in Jer 37–38. Why did Jerusalem fall? Why does the narrator give such detail?
3. Why did Zedekiah end up captured and blinded?
4. Read Jer 39:10–14. What evidences can you see of the presence and grace of God?
5. Read Jer 39:15–18. Why do you think the narrator draws attention to Ebed Melek at this point of the book of Jeremiah? What are God's plans for his kingdom?
6. As you reflect on the chapter, do you think this slogan is a good summary: only grief permits newness?

Applying Jeremiah 39

7. How are you like Jerusalem and Zedekiah?
Respond to this statement: Australia, your family and your church are less than they could be because of your sin.
8. Have you ever had a time when God's Spirit has created a deep conviction of sin? Can you describe what happened?
9. Discuss the claim that Jesus has become like Jerusalem and like Zedekiah for you.
10. How are God's international purposes expressed in your life?

Through the week...

Reading Jer 39 as a portion of Scripture

- Consider the pain of being caught up in sin and judgement for Jeremiah the prophet. You might read stories of his mistreatment as well as prayers that express his distress (e.g. Jer 12).
- Read Acts 10 and consider how Ebed Melek and Cornelius are similar. From Peter's point of view, how might this episode have involved both grief and newness?