

ST PAUL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



# THE STORY

OUR JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF GOD'S STORY

SUNDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2019



## A Key Thought:

*Like Jeremiah, we may have good reason to weep, but God has the remedy to wipe tears away.*



## THE KINGDOM'S FALL

### (Chapter 17)

*God sent prophet after prophet in search of his people's hearts, but they would not return to him. The people of Judah, like Israel before them, ignored the prophet's warnings. So God did what he said he would do—he allowed foreign armies to raid Judah. Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar laid three sieges against Judah and Jerusalem. The first came against King Jehoiakim and the second against King Jehoiachin. Nearly 10,000 Judeans were captured and taken away to Babylon. Then in 586 BC, the Babylonian army broke through the walls of Jerusalem. They demolished the city, looted the temple, and led most of the survivors away to Babylon. Jeremiah was among the few who were left behind. He grieved the loss of his beloved city and mourned the sin of God's people. He knew that Judah could have been saved, but even in his sorrow, this weeping prophet stood firm on the sure promises of God. He trusted that God would still have compassion on his chosen people.*

Read today's Bible passage from Lamentations on pages 243-245 of the *Story* book.

Contact **Dennis Clark** on **0438 895 056** with enquiries or if you wish to join a group

## THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE



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The Kingdoms' Fall

### Read Reflect Relate to God and others

*From our “Lower Story” perspective, the destruction of Jerusalem seems harsh and unnecessary. Why did God allow his chosen people to suffer such shame and devastation? But as for any good parent who disciplines a child, there was a deeper motivation of love. God acted that way because he loved his people so much. If God had continued to bless Judah while they were behaving in ways so contrary to his commands, it would have sent a confusing message about who God is and how community works with God. God desires a community where love, peace and justice reigns. Judah’s behavior was deeply at odds with that, and God needed to exercise “tough love”, even though it pained him to do so. Yet, God was not disowning the descendants of Abraham. The entire point of God’s judgement on Judah was to get their attention and remind them on his promise to bless the world through them. Judah’s banishment would be temporary. God had a bigger plan of grace for them – as he has also for you and for me.*

**READ** pages 231-247 of *The Story*.

**REFLECT** on these questions:



Can you recall a time when you suffered because of choices or decisions you have made? What lessons did you learn? In what ways did God use that time to grow or revive you in your faith?



God’s ultimate plan was to restore Judah to the promised land. Have you had a personal experience of God’s restoring grace, a time when you felt God blessing you even though you had wandered from him?

**RELATE** – Is there someone you know who is going through a time of deep struggle? Reassure them of God’s never ending mercies and ultimate plan to bless them in relationship with him.



## FAITH ACTS IN THE HOME

29 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER 2019

This week's theme:

*God's loving kindness never runs out!*

*Every night in  
every home ...*



### SHARE

highs and lows



### READ

a Bible verse or  
story



### TALK

about how the Bible  
might relate to your  
highs and lows



### PRAY

for one another's  
highs and lows



### BLESS

one another

### DAILY BIBLE VERSES

**Sunday — Lamentations 3:22-23**

The Lord's love never ends; his mercies never stop.  
They are new every morning.

**Monday — Lamentations 3:25**

The Lord is good to those who put their hope in  
him. He is good to those who look to him.

**Tuesday — Psalm 103:13**

A father is tender and kind to his children. In the  
same way, the Lord is tender and kind to those  
who have respect for him.

**Wednesday — Psalm 108:4**

For great is your love, higher than the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

**Thursday — Joel 2:13**

Turn back to me with broken hearts. I am merciful,  
kind, and caring. I don't easily lose my temper, and  
I don't like to punish.

**Friday — Micah 7:18**

Lord, who is a God like you? You forgive sin. You  
forgive your people when they do what is wrong.  
You don't stay angry forever. Instead, you take  
delight in showing your faithful love to them.

**Saturday — Titus 3:5**

He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things  
we had done. It was because of his mercy.

- Can you remember a time when you ran out of something? What did you do?
- People sometimes run out of patience with each other and stop forgiving. But Lamentations 3:23 tells us that God's mercies never run out – they are new every morning. What does that mean for you?



*Mealtime  
Prayer*

**THANKS BE TO OUR GOD  
WHO FEEDS THE WHOLE  
WORLD WITH  
GOODNESS, GRACE,  
LOVING KINDNESS AND  
TENDER MERCY. AMEN.**

### A BLESSING TO SHARE

***May God's forgiveness give you  
peace and hope, each and  
every day. Amen.***

