

## Into the Light Chapter 8: God Laments

Read the Opening prayer on page 73

### Introduction

What causes God to lament?

If we worship a God who laments, do you find that comforting, unsettling, or of no importance?

Read Hosea 11:1-9 found on page 74

How do you respond to the emotions of God in this passage? Is this new to you?

What does this text tell you about the stereotype of a vengeful, violent God of the Old Testament?

Pick out a phrase or verse that causes you to react with emotion or joy or lament. Why do you think you react the way you do?

How will you use this emotion or joy or lament in your life?

Read Luke 18:41-44 and Matthew 23:37-39 on page 75.

We are taught in our culture to value the “still upper lip,” but notice the emotions and laments of Jesus in these passages.

Our author says on page 76 “If the point of discipleship is that we take on more of the likeness of Christ then the fact that God laments, even cries out in lament, can shape and influence the people we are becoming. What would it be like of we didn’t push lament aside in both our personal and corporate lives of faith?”

A main point of this study is that lament leads to hope. How does believing that our God laments and that we can go to God with our laments lead us to hope?

### Practicing lament

How are God's laments different from ours? (answer on page 78)

Page 78 has two great ways to write a confession that acknowledges we are responsible for God's laments. Choose one of the two ways. Read each sentence and allow your women to respond to each silently or out loud (which ever your group is comfortable with).

### Closing

Read the section "Trusting in the God of Hope" on page 78.

End with the closing prayer.