

Into the Light Chapter 7: Creation Laments

Opening Prayer Exercise

Name one place in creation that causes you to praise God.

Name a place you want to visit.

If you are meeting in your small group, start a prayer by saying: “We give you thanks, O God, for you creation. We especially give you thanks for these places that are meaningful to us: (invite the people in your group to name the places they mentioned to the above questions).

End the prayer time by saying the Opening Prayer on page 65.

Scripture Study

Do you think creation laments?

Read the two scripture passages on page 66: Isaiah 24:4-6, 8, 19 and Romans 8:19-23. Highlight words that sound harsh, and words that describe a creation not thriving. How do you react to these words about creation?

Compare the two scripture passages. How are the words used similar? Different? Why do you think that is?

Can humans rightly lament with creation? Is lament our proper response? Or, would a more accurate response be to repent? Or, do we change how we live?

What is one change you can make in your lifestyle to cause creation to lament or groan less?

Practicing Lament

Write a lament together or separately:

- Choose an issue.
- Write the lament in the voice of creation using the outline on page 69.

What new awareness did it bring to voice the lament from creation's viewpoint?

Closing

Read the hope found in Isaiah 11:6-9 on page 69.

Read together the closing prayer on page 70.