

Into the Light: Chapter 6 Lament Over the City

Opening Prayer on page 55

Name cities that have been destroyed. What caused their destruction?

The beloved city of Jerusalem has been physically destroyed, and the people lament. Read their lament on page 56 from Lamentations 5.

What statements cause you to grieve?

What statements give you hope?

Observe the author's painting for the day on page 54. "The skyline is an amalgamation of places where I have lived," says our author. What situations and issues in your city or town (whether Green Valley or your home city) have caused you to lament?

On page 59, our author says "Destruction happens in more ways than simply physical destruction." Cities can fracture with distrust, no cooperation, issues of *us* and *them*. Discuss how we saw this in the last year.

Write a lament based on the issues discussed following the pattern on page 60 (the bullet points).

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot hidden."

What cities do you know that are called "city on a hill"?

What ways are members of our congregation working for the welfare of our town?

Look again at our painting for this lesson on page 54. The branch in front of the city is an olive branch, a symbol of peace. You may want to end your lesson together by praying for a city that you love. Begin each prayer with "With these hands, Lord, I pray for...."

Conclude with the prayer on page 62.