

"A Time to Mourn"
James 4:7-10
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A Lament Service



Background

As we continue studying James' exhortations to the early believers, we come to his call for repentance and lament. The people's friendship with the world, their self-serving passions and pursuits, have put them in opposition to God. James calls them to a time of mourning, and so it may be for us, too. This Sunday, through songs, prayers, and teaching from James, we will hold space for the grief and the pain of sin in our lives and in our world. Our desire is to draw near to God with humble hearts, and to experience the grace and mercy of our generous God, together.

Sermon Text *James 4:7-10*

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

Discussion Questions and Prayer Prompts

1. What are the self-serving desires in my heart that often control me? *Name them before the Lord in confession. Ask Him to meet that particular desire.*
2. How have these unchecked desires affected my relationships with fellow Christians? *Be specific and confess your part in it.*
3. How have we chosen friendship with the world in the different areas of our lives (family, church, work, politics, etc)? Name these choices before the Lord in confession.
4. How have our alliances with worldly values affected our witness to the people around us? Be specific and confess our part in it.
5. What are the ways I've been wounded by the self-serving passions and pursuits of others? Articulate your pain to the Lord.
6. What personal burden, or grief am I carrying? Articulate your pain to the Lord.
7. What are the burdens and griefs that others are carrying, that the Lord is prompting me to pray for? Articulate their pain to the Lord.