

STUDY GUIDE | SERMON: APRIL 10, 2020

THE GOD OF LOVE AND LAMENT

LET'S TALK

1. According to theologian N.T. Wright, "lament is what happens when people ask Why? and don't get an answer. What are some questions you've been asking during this pandemic?"
2. What has the disruption we've experienced taught you about suffering? How has it affected how you view the sufferings of those facing more difficult circumstances?
3. Pastor Steve says that the heart of the Christian story is that in Jesus, God laments.

In Jesus, we see that God – who is ultimate strength – is in fact so strong that he is willing to become weak, willing to become vulnerable enough to personally absorb the the full extent of the world's sin, suffering and darkness into himself out of his love for us.

How does it encourage you to know that God chose to lay aside his glory out of his love for you?

4. How do our current sufferings compare to those suffered by Jesus?
5. How does reflecting on the sufferings of Jesus make it easier for us to endure the sufferings that we are going through?
6. Pastor Steve encourages us to "pray our pain" - to let our pain cause us to run to God, not away from him. What is one prayer request you have at this time?

LET'S PRAY

Spend some time in prayer (for each other, for our community and for the world).