



Celebrating God's Faithfulness | October 18, 2020 | Week 6 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Lamentations 3: 19-23](#), [Psalm 36: 5-9](#)

REFLECT: The book of Lamentations was written during a very difficult time for God's people - the destruction of Jerusalem and their exile to Babylonia. Despair and uncertainty filled streets and hearts. Yet the writer chose to pause and reflect on God's faithfulness. Why do you think it is important that he focused on God's faithfulness at that low point? How do you think remembering God's faithfulness affected his perspective and ability to have hope through the difficult time?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: God is faithful; steady, constant, loyal, reliable, trustworthy. The scriptures are filled with stories of God's never ceasing love and never ending mercy in difficult times. Think about some of the most difficult seasons of your life. Can you recall evidence of God's faithfulness during those times? If God's mercies are new every morning, look for signs of His faithfulness throughout *this* day and spend some time thanking Him for those specific things.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: The short video on RightNow Media entitled, "[How to Read Lamentations.](#)" [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up for one [here.](#)]

LISTEN: Take some time to listen to the hymn "[Great is Thy Faithfulness,](#)" and practice focusing on God's faithfulness in your life.

Day 2-

READ: [Lamentations 3: 24](#), [Psalm 73: 26](#), [Numbers 18:20](#)

REFLECT: What does it mean for God to be your portion? If God Himself is your inheritance, what earthly position or possession could provide greater security now or in the future? Do you ever find yourself seeking something else?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Write out a short list of 3-5 things that you would consider necessary components of a secure future. Pray through that list with God and be open to His input on what will bring true security.



Day 3-

READ: [Luke 12: 27-34](#); [Philippians 4: 19](#)

REFLECT: What can these passages teach us about God's resources? What do they tell us about His goodness? If God the Father is *pleased to give* us the kingdom, can you believe that He has enough to meet your needs and is willing to do so?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Are there any situations in your life right now that tempt you to doubt His ability and willingness to provide? Ask God to reveal the root of these doubts and pray for healing.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: The short video from Francis Chan on RightNow Media – [Surrender Stuff: Is God Enough?](#)

REFLECT: Do you believe, in your core, that *God* is enough for you? Are you able to be content with what He provides?

Day 4-

READ: [Psalm 33](#)

REFLECT: Hope means to believe, to trust, to look forward to something with desire and confidence. What does it mean to 'put your hope in' something? What are some common things that people put 'vain hope' in? Why do you think we do that? What does it look like to wait in hope for the Lord?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Spend some time thinking about where you put your hope. What do you trust to protect, provide for or deliver you? Confess any ways that you have invested in false or vain hope and ask God to teach you how to trust in His unfailing love.

Day 5-

READ: [Nehemiah 8: 9-12](#)

REFLECT: This passage in Nehemiah describes a scene where the Israelites are returning to Jerusalem and are being restored after 70 years of exile and captivity to the Babylonians. The hope of Lamentations is bearing fruit! Ezra reads the law to teach and establish God's order, but the people find themselves convicted as they begin to understand how far they had moved away from God's will. Ezra



has to stop them from dwelling too long on their sin and remind them that the joy of the Lord is their strength – that they should rejoice in the holiness of the work that *the Lord* was already doing. This tendency to dwell on mistakes and stay in a posture of mourning, and even shame, is not God’s will. What can we learn from Ezra’s teaching about what to focus on and how to move forward, both emotionally and practically?

PRAY: As you reflect upon your own faith journey today be aware of any areas of your past or present that you may be focusing on instead of rejoicing in God’s faithfulness and restoration. Are you ready to let go, quiet yourself in His holiness and find joy?

PRACTICE: Don’t forget to celebrate the work of God in your life! What have been the *small* wins through the Art of Living Well series? Thank God for those and be encouraged and motivated to continue the good work that He has begun! To visually track your progress, use one of these [“spectaculars.”](#)