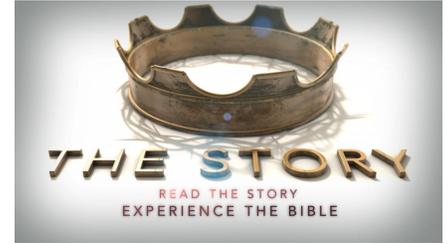


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for June 20, 2021:
Chapter 17: The Kingdom's Fall



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS Community or family

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

1. This weekend was Father's Day. Tell about a lesson you learned from your Father, good or bad. Has your understanding of the lesson changed over time? If so, how?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

3 After affliction and harsh labor, Judah has gone into exile.

She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.

All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

Lam. 1:3, 3:21-24

1. For hundreds of years God waited patiently, warned his people, and gave them chance after chance. Why was God so patient with the people of Israel when they were so rebellious and sinful? How have you experienced God's great patience in your life?
2. How can God's discipline of his children be the best gift he can give us? How has God disciplined you on your journey of faith and how did his living discipline help you grow?
3. In Lamentations 1 and 3 the Prophet Jeremiah records what he felt as the nation of Judah was destroyed and he expresses seemingly contrasting thoughts. What did he write that seemed hopeless, like it was all over? What did he write that seemed to have a sense of hope, like God's plan could still be accomplished? What does that tension between the two tell us about how God wants us to relate with God?
4. When God calls Jeremiah, he has a list of excuses (not unlike many of the people God has called to something special so far). What excuses do we use to try to get out of following God? How can we encourage each other to stop making excuses and boldly follow God's leading?
5. Read Ezekiel 36:1-37:14 -- During one of the most hopeless times in Biblical history, the prophet Ezekiel pointed ahead to a future time when the story's ending will be rewritten. How do Ezekiel's words bring hope when it feels as if the story is over?

- **SERVE** *others*

God desires for believers to be signposts that point the way to Jesus by the way they live their lives. Identify someone in your life who needs to have a better example of a follower of Jesus. Ask God to use your life to declare his might, presence, love, and sovereignty in their life.

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing.**