

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS

GREAT PRAYERS #1 -- ISAIAH 64:1-8

1. Isaiah 64:1-8 is a prayer of lament. Have you ever, or are you still praying prayers of lament for something lost, or never gained in your life? Or some difficult circumstances in someone else's life? Can you share for what you are lamenting?

2. One of the difficulties with prayers of lament is that sense that God is silent, or absent, or unresponsive. How do you deal with seasons like that? Or simply unanswered prayer. Are there any scriptures that give you hope in seasons like that?

3. Dan said that perhaps one reason why people don't take Christians seriously, and get tired of our offers of "thoughts and prayers" is because we've lost the heart to lament. It seems we don't take the pain of the world seriously. What do you think about that?

4. Read Isaiah 64:1-4. Dan described this prayer four ways, a lament of God's absence, a plea for up there to come down here, a hunger for God's presence, and an expectancy for awesome deeds. Which description connects most with you and why?

5. In discussing the difference between complaining (which got God's discipline in the Exodus) and lamenting (which gets God's ear in Isaiah 64) Dan said, "We wail in protest rather than weep in prayer. We critique the church but do we cry-out to God? We flipout on facebook rather than falling on our faces with tears in our eyes and love in our hearts. We are quick to get stuff of our chest, but I'm afraid the stuff we get off just lands on someone else. Do we lament?" Talk about the differences between complaining and lamenting.

6. God's most amazing deed is moving us from Isaiah 64:5-7 to Isaiah 64:8. Can you share about a time, in the midst of lamenting-type times, when God did that for you?

7. For whom or what is God leading you to lament?

