



SENIOR HIGH BIBLE CLASS

FOR TEENS AGES 15-17

WINTER QUARTER | DECEMBER | JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2026-27

Senior High Bible Class

WINTER QUARTER

LOOKING AHEAD

The Love of God

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The theme for our study the next three months is God's love. The lessons in December will lead us to Christmas. Two Old Testament lessons focus on the need of a Savior, and one will be about prophecies about Him. Two New Testament lessons from John's Gospel will help us worship Jesus Christ as our Savior.

The second unit has three more lessons from John. Titled "Jesus' Love for the World," these studies will dig deep and apply important and popular teachings of Jesus.

The third unit has six lessons from John's three epistles that focus on living out God's love. We will study the dangers of walking in darkness and living in sin. We will also accept the commands to love our brothers and sisters, love and trust God, walk in love, and walk in truth.

Ask God to bless His Word in your life and to help you see His love!



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SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

LAM. 3:1 I *am* the man *that* hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.

2 He hath led me, and brought me *into* darkness, but not *into* light.

3 Surely against me is he turned; he turneth his hand *against me* all the day.

19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

20 My soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

22 *It is of* the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 *They are new every morning:* great *is* thy faithfulness.

24 The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

25 The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that* seeketh him.

26 *It is* good that a *man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD .

27 *It is* good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

28 He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne *it* upon him.

29 He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.

30 He giveth *his* cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach.

31 For the Lord will not cast off for ever:

32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

34 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth,

35 To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High,

36 To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not.

37 Who *is* he *that* saith, and it cometh to pass, *when* the Lord commandeth *it* not?

38 Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?

39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

NOTES

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and willingness to submit to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

The Lord's Compassion

Lesson Text: Lamentations 3:1-3, 19-39

Related Scriptures: Psalm 130:1-8; Lamentations 3:4-18, 40-66;
2 Corinthians 4:7-12; Hebrews 12:4-11

TIME: about 585 BC

PLACE: Jerusalem or Egypt

GOLDEN TEXT—"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

ANALYZING

This first lesson is from the book of Lamentations. The presumed writer was the prophet Jeremiah. It was written shortly after (and because of) the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. We do not always think of God's love during tragedy, but He loves us and is present even in our worst times.

1. The depressing reality (Lam. 3:1-3). This chapter is an acrostic poem using the Hebrew alphabet. The first three verses begin with the first Hebrew letter. The next three verses begin with the second Hebrew letter, and so on.

Jeremiah spent years preaching to the people of Judah about God's judgment. Jeremiah and the people of Judah saw Babylon destroy Jerusalem and even Solomon's temple.

This chapter reveals the raw heart of a grieving individual. The author acknowledged the reality of someone who has lived through war. In verse 1, we see how personal this poem will be when it says, "I am the man."

Jeremiah identified with suffering and acknowledged God's discipline. He was experiencing great grief and knew it came from God.

In verse 2, he described what the Lord had done, saying that God had led him into darkness. This is difficult to read when so many other Scriptures describe God leading His people into the light by guiding each step. Jeremiah knew God was punishing His people. He felt abandoned but also recognized God's sovereignty in adversity.

In verse 3, the author wrote that God had turned against him. More specifically, he said the Lord had turned His hand against him all day long. God was intense and relentless as He dealt with Jeremiah.

Throughout Scripture, we see the hand of God doing great things for His people. We have also read of God's mighty hand performing miracles that can only be explained as divine. But Jeremiah described God's hand that chastises and delivers punishment.

The excruciating description of punishment continues for seventeen more verses. Jeremiah was utterly devastated at the loss of everything.

2. The power of remembering (Lam. 3:19-21). The writer shared three lines about remembering the bad, the results of remembrance, and how recollection can bring hope.

After a lengthy description of all the things God had done to him, Jeremiah said he remembered his affliction and misery. He compared his trouble to wormwood and gall, things that taste disgusting and can cause great harm.

Jeremiah wrote that deep down in his soul, he remembered how awful God's punishment had been. He did not complain. He said the remembrance humbled him.

As Jeremiah recalled those things, he also remembered God's unchanging qualities. This purposeful remembrance of God's faithfulness and compassion brought him hope!

3. God's mercies (Lam. 3:22-24).

In verse 22, we read the cause of Jeremiah's hope: the Lord's mercies. This verse uses God's covenant name, Yahweh. This is the name of the one true God of the universe.

Jeremiah and those to whom he preached were still alive because of God's mercies. They had not been consumed. The Lord's great love kept them alive. Verse 22 continues by describing the nature of God's compassions—they never fail! The Lord's mercy never ends and always accomplishes good for His people.

Verse 23 says that the Lord's mercies are new every morning. Since God has all power, He can keep producing more mercies. Yesterday may have been horrible, but God has new mercies this morning.

The verse ends with a powerful statement: "Great is thy faithfulness." Of all the words Jeremiah could choose to describe Yahweh's faithfulness, he said it is great because God is great!

In verse 24, we read, "The Lord is my portion." Jeremiah was the son of

a priest. This is interesting because when the Lord directed the dividing of the Promised Land, He said the Levitical priests would not receive a portion. God Himself would be their portion (Num. 18:20).

4. Content living (Lam. 3:25-33).

From here the poem instructs those living in hope. Verses 25-27 each contain the word "good."

Verse 25 says the Lord is good to those who wait for and hope in Him. God is pleasing to the soul that seeks Him. Our benevolent God knows who is waiting on and seeking Him. What is His response? He is good to that person. Wait on God, acknowledging His goodness.

The following two verses continue the use of the word "good" by pointing out that it is good that a man should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord (vs. 26). We wait for God to answer our prayers and deliver us in His time.

Verse 27 says it is good for a man to "bear the yoke in his youth." A yoke connected work animals to a large tool like a plow. Here the author reflected on the good that can come from very difficult circumstances: a person can learn and grow. "Bearing the yoke" is a way to describe uncomfortable training and direction. Jeremiah saw value in learning lessons while one is young.

Verses 28-30 show actions of person who has been humbled by the hand of God. Verse 28 says the afflicted should sit alone in silence because God has laid it on him. This is a person submitting to God's discipline.

Someone putting his face in the dust is the custom of lying prostrate before a king in surrender. Even in

an act of vulnerable humility, verse 29 says there is hope. Why? Because God restores the humble (cf. Isa. 57:15).

Lamentations 3:30 continues the theme of enduring suffering with patience. As we read of someone who willingly turns the other cheek when punched or slapped, we see a foreshadowing of Jesus.

Verses 31-33 highlight the compassion of God. Note the use of the word “mercies” again. During times of suffering, God is still compassionate. How is He still compassionate? Verse 31 states that judgment is temporary. Verse 32 gives us the new term “the multitude of his mercies.” Verse 33 states that He does not punish willingly or from his heart. He disciplines us when we are willfully and stubbornly disobedient.

God's discipline comes from love, not spite or hatred. The goal is for us to repent and for God to restore our relationship with Him.

5. God's justice (Lam. 3:34-39). God does not condone the harsh treatment of captives or prisoners (vs. 34). God is fair and created all people in His image. Since each person is an image bearer, each person has rights and dignity (vs. 35). God knows when someone is denied justice and highly disapproves of that (vs. 36).

God alone is sovereign (vs. 37). God does only what is good and can never do something evil. He is just and righteous, yet both good and bad circumstances can come from Him (vs. 38). We should not complain. Our response to His judgment is submission and repentance (vs. 39).

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M — How Long, O Lord? Ps. 13:1-6.
T — Jeremiah's Affliction. Lam. 3:4-18.
W — The Lord's Judgment. Lam. 3:40-66.
T — Afflicted but Not Crushed. 2 Cor. 4:7-10.
F — Out of the Depths I Cry. Ps. 130:1-8.
S — The Lord's Love. Ps. 36:1-12.
S — Steadfast Love in Affliction. Lam. 3:1-3, 19-39.

APPLYING

When life seems dark, or when you feel God's discipline, it is essential to remember that God has not given up on you. Discipline means He loves you enough to help you grow.

Depression can be hard. When a believer is suffering, it may feel like God is absent and silent. Many times, it is difficult to ask for prayer. Yet people may not realize you need prayer unless you ask.

Hope is key when going through difficult days. Listing answered prayers about God's faithfulness in your life can help give you strength to wait and remind you to trust the Lord.

ASKING

1. How did Jeremiah describe his experience of God's discipline in Lamentations 3:1-3?
2. Why is the transition from despair to hope in verses 19-24 significant?
3. To whom is the Lord good?
4. In times of suffering, how does the Lord show mercy?
5. Explain God's view of human injustice.