

DISCUSSION GUIDE || August 16–21, 2026

REFLECT

1. *Looking back on the summer, what are you most **grateful** for?*
2. *Looking ahead to the fall, what are you most **hopeful** for?*

REMEMBER

- The psalms are a record of all human emotion and experience, processed as poetic prayer, and held up to God by a community **bold enough to believe that our Creator can handle our whole selves**.
- Psalm 137 is a Psalm that pours it all out (even the angry and vengeful feelings) and vows to remember it all. The psalmist is raw, grieving, and angry after their Babylonian captors taunt them to sing their worship songs in the aftermath of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 B.C.
- *Can we say “Amen” to all of it? Would Jesus?* No. The goal of this inspired poetry is *not* to **express all they feel** but to be honest about **feeling what they express**. We can bring our whole self to God.

DISCUSS

READ Psalm 137

3. *Why does it matter for us that **we can bring our whole selves**—even this kind of grief, hurt, or anger—to God? What does this **reveal to us about God** and our relationship to him?*
4. ***Why is remembering this catastrophe so important** to the Psalmist and the later Jewish tradition?*
5. Many Christians are conditioned to view every passage of Scripture (regardless of genre, culture, or time) as **prescriptive** (if it says it, do it). ***How does Jesus’ words, work, and example serve as an interpretive lens of the Bible?***
6. These words may not be out-of-bounds in our prayer life but they are a “fully human/whole self” starting line, not a finish line. ***How does the life, teaching, and example of Jesus both a) make space for this kind humanity and b) call his followers beyond it?*** (Specifically verse 9.)
7. *What do we need to **pause and pray** for now?*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nora Wood’s BAPTISM is Saturday, August 29th
- YOUTH NIGHT Trivia Night @ the Kempers – Saturday, September 5 after our Gathering until 9pm