

Current

Honest Lament

ISAIAH 64:1-9.

SESSION 6.48



☐ *Prepare in Advance*

Before the Session

- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Read through today's passage and session plan to be prepared.
- Review the article about Protests Around the Nation (link provided on this session's webpage).

☐ *Introduce*

Ask the group to think about the incidents they have seen on the news this week. These may have been images of violence, rage, sadness, celebration. Ask people to share one word that comes to mind when they think back through the news images. Next, ask the group to think about the word Advent. Have a conversation about how the word Advent interacts with the other words named. Are they in contrast, or do they resonate with each other?

Ask: How often do you hear the words we collected from the news spoken out loud in the context of worship?

Have someone read Isaiah 64:1-9 out loud. Show the *Bible Background Video*.

☐ *Discuss*

Say: We have likely seen an abundance of news coverage this week about the responses to the ruling in Ferguson. It's likely we would have different responses to the multi-layered issues surrounding this event. If we look at the stories of protests, and look beneath some of the layers, we might see that the protests around the country seem to echo the emotions heard in this lament from Isaiah. As we look at some of the images from various protests, talk about the emotions that are evident.

Ask: Setting aside some of our own judgements about the way people expressed protest, can we note emotions that sound like the lament in Isaiah? What feelings do you see and hear? (Share images from Protests around the Nation)

☐ *Ask*

- Many voices have been raised in response to Ferguson. Some in support, some in anguish, some in

protest. Why is listening to the voices - the various voices - important? What might we hear if we listen?

- What would it mean to listen to the laments that we hear around us? What would it mean to listen for laments in our church and community?
- In what ways are these scenes of protest like a lament? In what ways are they different?

☐ *Imagine*

- Place yourself in the middle of one of these scenes of protests. If you were there, surrounded by voices, cries, and people, what might you be feeling? What might motivate you to continue to protest?
- Do we avoid expressing feelings like the ones here in Isaiah? Why?
- Do we resist expressions of lament that sound like protests? Why? What does our resistance and avoidance say about us?
- Where is Christ in scenes of lament?

☐ *Close*

Imagine. Close your eyes and pretend you are standing on a street in Ferguson, Missouri. Pick an identity: imagine you are a business owner, a mother who is protesting, a police officer, national guard member, a local minister. Now, with your eyes closed, hear the words of Isaiah. (Read Isaiah 64:1-9 aloud) Share with the group what this lament means to you, if you're standing in that place.

Close in prayer to end the session. Pray for the space to offer lament and the ears to hear lament in all of its forms.

By Erin Hall

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