

Adapted from Lifeway's Explore the Bible Curriculum

Bible Passage: Lamentations 1-5

Memory Verse: Lamentations 3:22b-23

Text Truth: When we are sad, we can talk to God.

Christ in Context: The Book of Lamentations shows us that because God loved Jerusalem and His people, He had to punish their sin. Because God loves us, He punished His beloved son, Jesus for our sin so we could be restored to God.

"A Song of Sorrow" Story Paraphrase

Jeremiah was a prophet. God has sent Jeremiah messages to warn the people to repent of their sin. But the people ignored Jeremiah's messages. And eventually, the people paid the price for their sin.

Jeremiah was deeply sad. The Babylonians conquered Jerusalem. Many of the people were taken far away. The temple was destroyed. Much of the city of Jerusalem was destroyed. It was a very, very sad time for God's people.

The Book of Lamentations records five poems or laments Jeremiah wrote to describe his sadness.

"How she (Jerusalem) sits along, the city once crowded with people! She weeps. There is no one to offer her comfort. Jerusalem has sinned and has become an object of scorn. Everyone who honored her now despises her."

Sin destroys. It always hurts relationships. God's relationship with His people was broken because of their sin. Jeremiah understood how serious sin was. But Jeremiah also had hope because He remembered God's love.

"Because of the Lord's faithful love we do not perish. His mercies never end. They are new every morning! The Lord is my portion; therefore I will put my hope in him. The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the person who seeks him. The Lord will not reject His people forever. Even if He allows suffering, God will show compassion because of His faithful love. God does not enjoy seeing His people suffer."

Jeremiah ended by praying to God, "Joy has left our hearts. Our dancing has turned to mourning. Lord, bring us back to you."

Closing: Pray as a family, thanking God for always giving us hope even when we're sad or when we disobey God.

Key Points

- Sin causes sorrow.
- We should keep God's commands because we love Him, not just to avoid punishment.
- Because God does not change, we can always have hope for tomorrow.

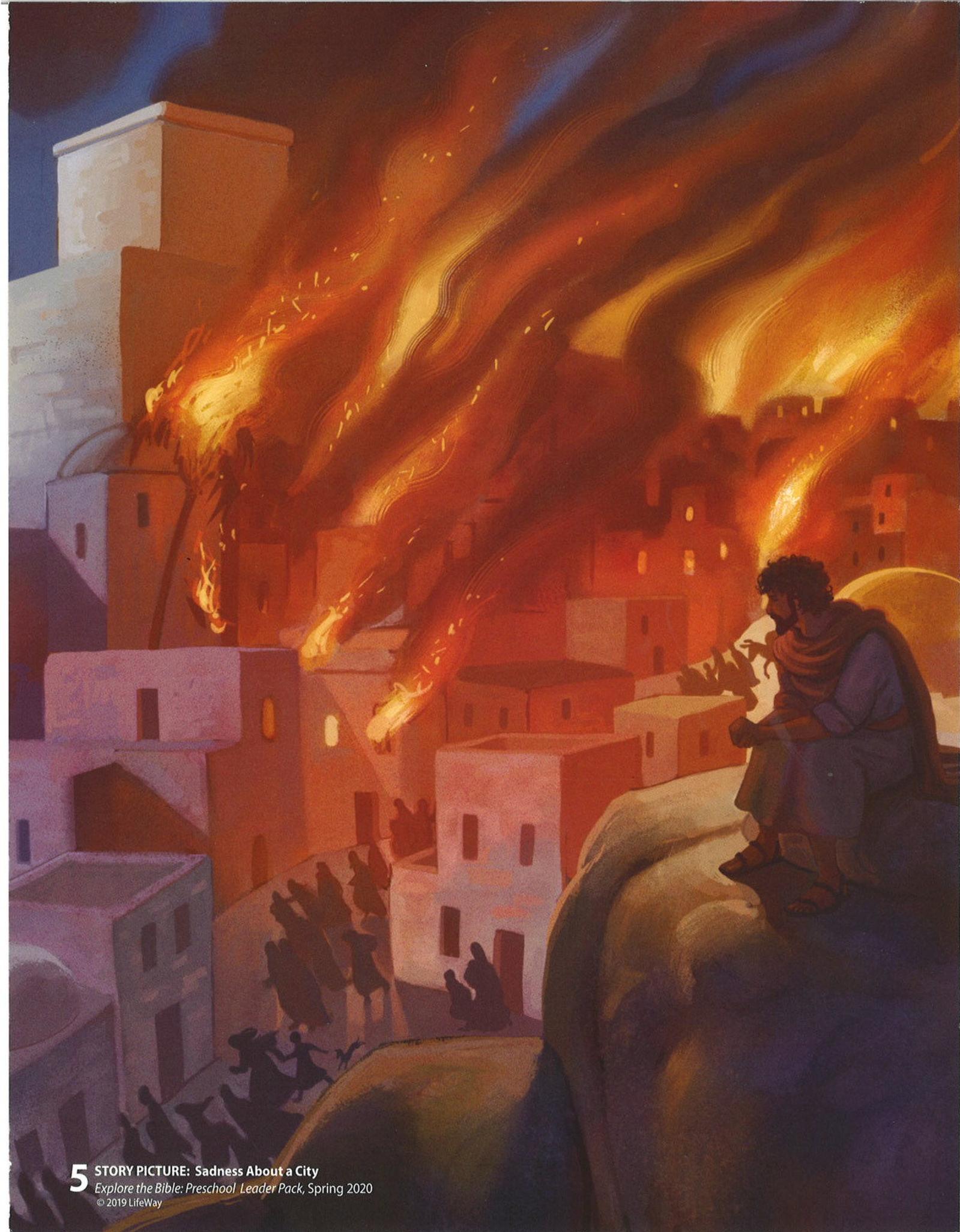
Examine the Text

Ask: "What does it mean to *lament*?" (to cry and be sad because of something really bad that has happened)

Say: "We can see from our story that Jeremiah lamented and showed grief or sorrow. Our Bible story today is actually titled, 'A Song of Sorrow,' which is what the entire Book of Lamentations is about."

Say: "Don't worry though; we will see that once again, even when things appear really bad, our hope is still in the Lord and in His promises."

Remind the kids that we can always have hope when we believe in Jesus and that if there is ever a time when they are sad to remember that we can talk to God anytime about it.



5 STORY PICTURE: Sadness About a City
Explore the Bible: Preschool Leader Pack, Spring 2020
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