



Group Guide

Psalm 137

August 25, 2024

Main Passage: Psalm 137

Theological Theme

God is patient and merciful but also will punish those who ignore His warnings. He allowed Jerusalem to be defeated and the people taken into captivity where they mourned their losses and remembered Jerusalem in hope.

Introduction

- ❓ When was a time you avoided a literal warning sign and later regretted it?
- ❓ How do you typically respond when you see a warning sign—whether literal or figurative? Stop? Turn around? Push farther? Why?

1. Mourning (Psalm 137:1-3)

The children of Israel were reaping the punishment for their sins and refusal to turn back to God in repentance. Now in Babylon as exiles, they could look back and see the error of their ways despite the multiple opportunities God gave to repent. This psalm was set in the foreign land of Babylon and most likely was written during the exile or immediately following it.

- ❓ How does it affect you when you realize your suffering is a result of your own choices? How do you typically respond in these moments?
- ❓ When have you been mocked for faith in Jesus, whether directly or indirectly? How do you respond in these moments?
- ❓ Application: How do you typically respond when it is hard for you to find joy or praise the Lord? How do all believers face this reality at some point?

2. Remembering (Psalm 137:4-6)

The writer of this Psalm vowed to remember Jerusalem and never forget what they had lost when they were taken from their home. Jerusalem represented right worship of God. Even those who lived outside the city had a deep love and respect for Jerusalem.

- ❓ How has the center of worship of God shifted for believers today? What freedom do we have that Old Testament believers did not have?

- ❓ How can we seek to remember the truths of God when our circumstances tell us to do otherwise?
- ❓ Application: How does God's past faithfulness give you hope for what He will do in the future when you face difficult times?

3. Judgment (Psalm 137:7-9)

Not only did the psalmist remember Jerusalem, but he also pointed toward the coming judgment of the nations. He asked God to look at Edom and remember their actions during the conquest of Jerusalem. Whereas he previously sought to remember in hope, here He called God to remember as a means of judgment.

- ❓ How does it encourage you to know that God promises to deal with those who continually do evil? How should this change the way we respond to those who seek our harm?
- ❓ This is a challenging passage. What does this teach you about the seriousness with which God views sin?
- ❓ Application: Where might God be calling you to repent and turn back to Him today?

Conclusion

- ❓ What is a situation from your past that encourages you to persist in trusting God today?
- ❓ How can we as a group remind one another of our reasons for worship even when life is hard?
- ❓ Who will you seek a gospel conversation with to point them to the hope God offers in Christ?