

Lament & Gratitude

Part I



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Unsettling DEHUMANIZING

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Unsettling Truths

THE ONGOING,
DEHUMANIZING
LEGACY OF THE
DOCTRINE OF
DISCOVERY



GENEROUS HELPINGS

On Thanksgiving Day, many Indigenous Americans attend alternative celebrations centered on honoring their ancestors' lives and cultures, like the National Day of Mourning—an annual peaceful protest in Plymouth, Massachusetts—and Truthingiving, a

nationwide storytelling-based event co-organized by artist Christine Nodine (seedingsovereignty.org/truthingiving). But even if you partake in a traditional gathering, you can still acknowledge our continent's first people.

Before you eat: Take a moment of silence to honor the millions of Native lives lost (and billions of acres of land stolen) during the colonization

of our country, as well as the struggles—high rates of poverty, inadequate education—that Indigenous populations face today as a result of centuries of oppression.

During dinner: Many of us don't get an accurate, unbiased Thanksgiving lesson in grade school, so why not discuss the facts as you pass the green beans? You can find the National Museum of the American Indian's "The Invention of Thanksgiving"

video (featured in its exhibition *American*) on its YouTube channel, SmithsonianNMHI, and the nonprofit museum Plymouth Plantation offers virtual lessons on the lives of the Wampanoag and Colonial English people in the 16th-century "Thanksgiving" at plymouth.org to start.

While you digest: Consider using part of your Black Friday budget to donate to innovative organizations, Seedingsovereignty.org (seedingsovereignty.org) combats

climate change and systemic inequalities through Indigenous youth leadership, the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (cswm.org) works to protect and uplift Indigenous women and children, and the DigDeep Access Water Project aims to install solar power and training water systems in 230 Navajo Nation homes by the end of 2020—which nearly 30 percent of residents live without.



Leftovers
cranberry sauce
can feed 10.

Giving Pause before Giving Thanks

RULE #1



NEVER SET THIS TO 2020

2020

How have you grieved this year?

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was
and saw him, she fell at his feet and said,
“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would
not have died. “

Luke 4

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come along also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

“Where have you laid him?” he asked.

Luke 4

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.
Jesus wept.
Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him.”

Luke 4

If I make my bed in the depths of Sheol, you are there... even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Psalm 139

2020

How have you experienced joy this year?

US mid-term elections: First time in history two native American women elected to Congress

AFP | Published: 07th November 2018 10:49 AM







Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes
in the morning.

Psalm 30

You are blessed when you feel you have lost
what is most dear to you. Only then can you be
embraced by the One who is most near to you.
(The Message)

Matthew 5

Our suffering is
the place of death
that gives birth to
the resurrection of life

Compassion = Co-Passion

We experience grace, joy, and gratitude Together

“How are you REALLY doing?”

“I just want 2020 to be over”

- We need SPACE and TIME to process and pray
- To recognize God’s PRESENCE (or perceived Absence?), His work (visible or otherwise)
- To grieve and mourn the challenging pieces of this year
- To really enter into Thanksgiving... and worship Christ this Christmas.

Lament and Gratitude

Merriam-Webster: **lament** - “to express sorrow, mourning, or regret for, often demonstratively.”

Laments for Individuals

Abraham, for **Sarah** (Gen 23:2)

David, for **Saul and Jonathan** (2 Sam 1); for **Abner** (2 Sam 3:31), for **Absalom** (2 Sam 18:33)

Job, for **calamities/personal disasters** (deaths of loved ones, loss of wealth and status, personal sickness) in Job 3:1-26, 30:26-31

Laments for Cities/States

Prophets grieve over states and cities

Jeremiah 6:26, Micah 1:8-9 - Jerusalem

Ezekiel 27 - Tyre

Ezekiel 32 - Egypt

Lamentations is a series of **funeral dirges** for **Jerusalem** (destroyed 586 BC by Babylonians)

Jeremiah sees **Jerusalem's fall as being the will of God,**
judgment for sin

People suffered greatly

They'd take the alphabet and create Acrostic Poetry

י	ט	ח	ז	ו	ה	ד	ג	ב	א
Yod	Tot	Chet	Zayin	Vav	He	Dalet	Gimel	Bet	Alef
(Y)	(T)	(Ch)	(Z)	(V)	(H)	(D)	(G)	(B/V)	(silent)
ע	ס	נ	נ	מ	מ	ל	ך	כ	
Ayin	Samech	Nun	Nun	Mem	Mem	Lamed	Khaf	Kaf	
(silent)	(S)	(N)	(N)	(M)	(M)	(L)	(Kh)	(K/Kh)	
ת	ש	ר	ק	ץ	צ	ף	פ		
Tav	Shin	Resh	Qof	Tsadeh	Tsadeh	Feh	Peh		
(T)	(Sh/S)	(R)	(Q)	(Ts)	(Ts)	(F)	(P/F)		

A
Carefully
reasoned,
Ordered
Sentence
tells
it
Clearly.

2:21 66%

Home Favorites Recent

 **Yumi Segovia**
Yesterday at 8:07 PM • 🌐

Grateful ABC's.
One of the assignment but I really liked the idea so here's mine.
I want to see yours too!

A-air
B-bed
C-coffee(can't wake up without it)
D-doctors(life saver for me)
E-Enzo(❤️)
F-family
G-God(🙏)
H-health(👍)
I-ice cream
J-Japan(🇯🇵)
K-"kindness"(on my arm 😊)

R-kindness (on my arm 😊)
L-Lucky(🍀)
M-mom(👩)
N-Nicole(❤️)
O-ocean
P-pets
Q-quiet place
R-rain
S-sisters(👭)
T-teachers(🍎)
U-understanding people
V-vegetables
W-water
X-x-rays (found my illness)
Y-Yoga(🧘)
Z-zoom(what to do without it now?)

Acrostic Examples

Psalms

9 and 10 - 1 single acrostic

25 - the ABCs of discipline?

34 and 37 - thanksgiving themes

111 and 112

119 - 8 verses/letter - word of God

145 - missing "N" intentionally?

Proverbs 31:10-31

(wife of noble character!)

Nahum 1:2-8

Lamentations 1, 2, 3, 4

(1st 4 chapters out of 5)

LAMENTATIONS 3

1 I am the man who has seen affliction...

4 He has made my flesh and my skin waste away;
he has broken my bones;

...**6** he has made me dwell in darkness

like the dead of long ago.

7 He has walled me about so that I cannot escape;

he has made my chains heavy;

8 though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer;...

10 He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding;

...**13** He drove into my kidneys the arrows of his quiver;

14 I have become the laughingstock of all peoples, the
object of their taunts all day long.

LAMENTATIONS 4

4 Because of thirst the infant's tongue sticks to the
roof of its mouth; the children beg for bread,

but no one gives it to them.

10 With their own hands compassionate women

have cooked their own children,

who became their food when my people were
destroyed.

13 But it happened because of the sins of her
prophets

and the iniquities of her priests,

who shed within her the blood of the righteous.

LAMENTATIONS 5

3 We have become fatherless, our mothers are widows.

4 We must buy the water we drink; our wood can be had only at a price.

10 Our skin is hot as an oven, feverish from hunger.

11 Women have been violated in Zion, and virgins in the towns of Judah.

14 The elders are gone from the city gate; the young men have stopped their music.

15 Joy is gone from our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning.

16 The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned!

21 Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old

22 unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.

Breakthrough moment (right around “G”)

3:20 My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.

21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

24 “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,

“therefore I will hope in him.”

25 **The Lord is good** to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

26 **It is good** that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

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

28 Let him sit alone in silence
when it is laid on him;

29 let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;

30 let him give his cheek to the one who
strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.

31 For the Lord will not cast off forever,

32 but, **though he cause grief, he will have
compassion**

**according to the abundance of his
steadfast love;**

33 for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.

55 **"I called on your name, O Lord, from the depths of the pit;**

56 **you heard my plea, 'Do not close your ear to my cry for help!'**

57 **You came near when I called on you; you said, 'Do not fear!'**

**WE GET
KNOCKED DOWN
BUT WE ARE
NOT DESTROYED.**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:9



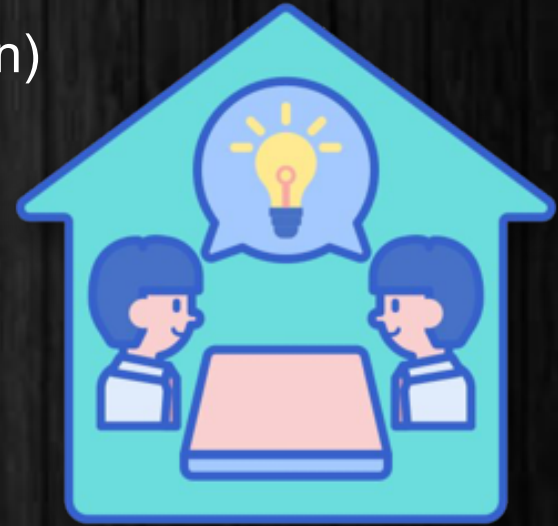
Reflection Opportunity

Write your own acrostic prayer (7 min)

- (Mute if desiring silence)
- “So Will I” will play in the background

Share in your breakout room (7 min)

Pray for someone, receive **prayer**



Acrostics bring Beauty, Order + Convention to Chaos

Mnemonic Devices aid with MEMORIZATION... *learning*

→ What have you LEARNED this year?

(// Amazon: everything from A to Z!)

→ Can you aim to CAPTURE it with some COMPLETENESS?

Let the 22-26 letters FORCE you to get words out, be THOROUGH

Laments bring Honesty and Truth to Challenging Times

1. Cry out to God
2. “I trust you”
3. Rage against your enemies
4. Anything else?
5. “I know you’ve heard me;” Praise God

Sit quietly with him

Take this Space and Time

To process and pray... **ASK FOR RENEWAL**

To recognize God's PRESENCE (or perceived Absence?), His work (visible or otherwise)

To grieve and mourn the challenging pieces of this year

To really enter into Thanksgiving with gratitude...

and receive Christ anew this Christmas.

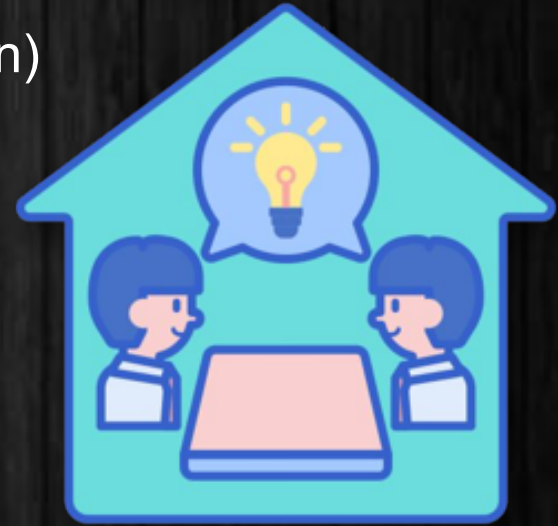
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Closing Song: The Steadfast Love of the Lord

Would be great to have Linda/the worship team leader lead this song. This YouTube clip is just for reference...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5doXzYCi3Y4>

Benediction

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21)