

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
LAMENTATIONS 5 - CONFESSION

Reflect on the last time you had to say sorry to someone. How did you reach the point where you wanted to say sorry?

Read Lamentations 5.

1. Do you notice any difference in this fifth poem compared to the previous ones? Why do you think this is so?
2. Re-read Chapter 3:40-42. Then re-read 5:21-22. What has changed since chapter 3?
3. What is the point of summarizing the troubles of Jerusalem back to God in chapter 5? Doesn't God already know? How does this compare to the content of your own prayers?
4. What do the speakers of chapter 5's poem expect will happen? Are they confident? Why/why not?
5. Read Deuteronomy 29:15-35 and compare it to the description of the people's woes in chapter 5. What is the significance of the similarities you find there? How does this help us understand the brevity of the phrase in 5:16?
6. What can you learn about confession from chapter 5?
7. How can your own attitude and practice of confession improve?
8. What are the differences between Christian confession and the confession found on the pages of Lamentations?
9. If you were talking to a new Christian, what would you want to tell them about confession in the Christian life?
10. If you feel comfortable, share with the group how you include confession in your life? (If uncomfortable, instead discuss what the Lord's prayer in Luke 11:2-4 teaches about confession).
11. What is the connection with confession and repentance? Read Romans 6:7-14. Particularly talk about why verse 12 is necessary?
12. Lamentations 5 is there as an example for us to learn from in many ways. How can your own life be an example to others in the areas of confession and repentance?