

Lament for War Zones/refugee psalm 137

Many struggle to see God when faced the reality and cruelty of war.

Prayer of the day:

O Lord, God of our salvation, as we cry out before you today about the injustice, pain and sorrow in our world. We think of those impacted by war and terror. We know that each person and every child is precious to you, yet we see fear, suffering seemingly without end. You Lord are the great provider, you see the needs of those impacted by war and you love them and weep with them. Comfort them Lord as they struggle and nourish their souls with renewed hope each morning. Guide those who seek refuge to places where they can find help and rest, and move the hearts of nations to welcome them. Help your people Lord to find community and sustaining joy in places of refuge or exile. Lord you promise a time where there will be no more war, no fear, or pain, or sorrow, or suffering. Build your kingdom here, come Lord Jesus.

Intercessory Prayer ideas

We pray for peace in our world: that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future

We pray for all people who are working to build peace in their communities: that they may inspire others by their example and be strengthened to carry on, even in the hardest times

We pray for families impacted by war; for those living in fear, for those indelibly touched by tragedy, for those who mourn;

We pray for boys and girls whose childhood has been stolen in the cause of war, bring restoration, healing, family, love.

We pray for those fleeing war and persecution, those seeking refuge and those seeking a fresh start in a land not their own

Leader: In places of war, times of crisis and fear

Response to prayers: The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those crushed in the spirit (Ps34:18)

Preaching themes:

This is a lament of people tormented and desperate for the presence of God. Their desire for revenge (v8-9) is a long way from God's instruction to love your enemies. They are not thinking/walking in the truth of God

Isolation, fear, without joy