

# Year of Lament – A Pathway to God

## Resource Pack - 'Those impacted by War'

Jennifer Hercott  
Rockhampton Diocese, February 2019

### Lament – a pathway to God



### Introduction

2019 has been set aside as a **'Year of Lament.'** This has been instigated to help us realise that there is a rich tradition of lament within the Scriptures that calls us to weep with those who weep and to mourn with those who mourn. There are many areas that should give us reason to lament. We need to weep with victims of child abuse; weep with our first peoples and refugees over their mistreatment; weep with those caught in war zones; weep with the homeless; and weep over the degradation of our environment and much more.

This Resource Pack focuses *'Those impacted by War'*. Many struggle to see God when faced the reality and cruelty of war.

### Scripture

One could add many other passages to this short list – this is just a few.

- Psalm 137
- 

### Prayers of Lament

Here's some samples of prayers of lament. Feel free to adapt and use.

#### 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

## **A Lament Communion**

### **Songs**

(there are many – here's a small sample)

- 

### **Links**

I haven't had the time to personally 'vet' these sites or read the following books. So have a look and make up your own mind.

### **Books**