

# 13 HOW LONG, LORD?

KEY TEXT: PSALM 79:1-13

## CENTRAL truth

In this week's psalm, we will explore Psalm 79, a psalm that outlines some of the devastation God's people experienced. Through the psalmist's heartbreaking words, we will learn that **we can bring our cares to the Lord during painful moments.**

## key question

**Why is it significant that this psalm ends on a note of hope?**

The psalmist doesn't conclude this psalm on a sorrowful note but instead with a note of hope. He anticipates that the Lord will intervene and bring restoration. God will remain faithful to His covenant people—the Good Shepherd will not abandon His sheep. God's response will lead His people to express praise and thanksgiving as they recall His wonderful works throughout the generations.

## keep in mind

- The psalmist's descriptions in this psalm of the devastation that the people of Israel experienced are intense yet honest. The students in your group may feel as though they can't truly be honest with the Lord. Through studying this psalm as a group, help students to see that we are challenged to be completely transparent and vulnerable with the Lord. We can bring our cares and worries to Him, knowing that He cares for us.
- The concept of God's jealousy may be difficult for students to grasp at first. However, God's jealousy and human jealousy are vastly different. The one true God is deserving of worship and honor, and He will not share it with another. By breaking their covenant with the Lord, the people of Israel revealed that their allegiance was not truly to God alone, and He was provoked to jealous wrath. While human jealousy is not righteous or good, God's jealousy is rooted in love.

## application

**What are some ways we can practice honesty with the Lord in prayer?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students should learn that we can be honest with the Lord and bring our cares to Him during difficult situations.

**FOR THE LEADER:** The Lord is not cold or distant in times of hardship, and we're invited to bring our burdens to Him and trust Him. Allow your group to be a safe environment for students to process difficult experiences.

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