

Introducing the 2020–2021 PW/*Horizons* Bible study

Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament

P. Lynn Miller, author and artist
Suggestions for Leaders by Dee Koza



Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
And settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me,
And your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
And the light around me become night,'
Even the darkness is not dark to you;
The night is as bright as the day,
For darkness is as light to you.

—*Psalm 139:7–12*

In this nine-lesson study, P. Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.

About the Author and the Suggestions Writer

P. Lynn Miller, author and artist, is a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She received her MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia) and the DMin from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen (Scotland). She has served as a workshop leader, graphic designer, and keynote speaker for conferences and gatherings on theology, worship, spirituality, education, and the arts. She provided suggestions for leaders for the 2016–2017 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Yates Siker. Lynn has been a practicing artist for more

than 25 years. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in fine arts and art history. Her work is in private and church collections throughout the country. She is a painter, a designer of textile art and stained glass, a curriculum writer, a graphic designer, and an art historian. Presbyterian women will recognize Lynn's work every time they see or don an Honorary Life Membership pin that Lynn designed.

Dee Koza is a Certified Christian Educator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She received a master of arts degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia). Dee currently works as an educational consultant.

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