

## **Sunday Sermon — Discussion Guide: Gyle Smith, 12-27-20 Celebration of 2020**

### **1/3 — Looking Back**

Start with prayer and/or worship (reading a Psalm, singing a song, giving thanks, etc.). Re-cast the vision (see example video [here](#)), review obedience goals from the previous week, and ask how everybody is doing. Check-in question options:

- Up/In/Out — How are you doing in your three primary relational spheres? (Up: *God*. In: *fellow believers and family*. Out: *unbelievers*)
- Highs/Lows: What was your “high” and your “low” from the past week?

### **2/3 — Looking to Jesus in the Present**

Explore this Scripture passage together: Lamentations 3:19-26

- As the facilitator, first read the passages aloud and invite the other members of the group to just listen and take note of what stands out to them. You may want to read this more than once.
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from these passages about who God is and what He does?*”
- Discuss the question: “*what do we learn from these passages about who we are and what we do?*”
- Alternative question: “*what do we learn from this passage about the importance of calling God’s goodness to mind in the midst of difficult circumstances?*”

### **3/3 — Looking Forward**

Ask Jesus how he wants you to respond (corporately and individually) to what you have heard and learned. You can also practice the following exercise:

- Sit quietly together in Jesus’ presence and ask yourself the question, “*How have I experienced the goodness and faithfulness of God in my life in 2020?*” Pay special attention to whatever memories, thoughts or feelings surface in your mind and heart, and remain open to however the Spirit may want to speak to you through them. Take time to express gratitude to God for some of the specific ways that He has loved and cared for you this past year. After some time of personal reflection, share your thoughts with one another as a group. End your time by praising and praying together, giving thanks and glory to God for His unrelenting faithfulness in the midst of difficult times, and asking Him for the strength to face the new year with joyful anticipation!

Click [HERE](#) or visit [www.bctulsa.com/stories](http://www.bctulsa.com/stories) to listen to stories of God’s goodness in 2020 from BC family members