



The Week of September 25, 2022

Psalm 42

Conversation Guide

Take-Aways

- **What we should believe:**
 - **About God:** (1 Corinthians 8:6) I believe there is one God who exists in 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is perfect in all things. He is the creator of all things. He has made humanity in his image and he desires a personal relationship with each one of us.
- **What we should become:**
 - **Joy:** (James 1:2-4) I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances that only deepens as I mature in Christ.
- **How we should behave:**
 - **I worship:** (Psalm 95:1-7) Because of who He is and what he has done, I worship God individually each day and corporately with my church family as often as they assemble.

Intro Questions

- What is one thing you want more than anything else in this world?
- What's the silliest excuse you've had for missing work or school? What about for missing church?
- When's the last time you caught yourself saying or thinking "That's not fair?"

Psalm 42

*As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so I long for you, God.
I thirst for God, the living God.
When can I come and appear before God?
My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long people say to me,
“Where is your God?”
I remember this as I pour out my heart:
how I walked with many,
leading the festive procession to the house of God,
with joyful and thankful shouts.*

*Why, my soul, are you so dejected?
Why are you in such turmoil?
Put your hope in God, for I will still praise him,
my Savior and my God.
I am deeply depressed;
therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan
and the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.
Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your breakers and your billows have swept over me.
The Lord will send his faithful love by day;
his song will be with me in the night—
a prayer to the God of my life.*

*I will say to God, my rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about in sorrow
because of the enemy’s oppression?”
My adversaries taunt me,
as if crushing my bones,
while all day long they say to me,
“Where is your God?”
Why, my soul, are you so dejected?
Why are you in such turmoil?
Put your hope in God,
for I will still praise him, my Savior and my God.*

Read the Psalm

- Have the group read the Psalm 23 silently to themselves.
- Have a member of the group read the Psalm aloud.

Observation

- What type of Psalm is this? Wisdom, Praise, Lament, Thanksgiving, or Royal?
- Who was the author of this Psalm?
- Who were the Korahites?
- What is a Maskil?
- What was the psalmist expressing? What are the emotions he is showing?

Interpretation

- Why does he use hunger and thirst to describe his desire for God?
- How does he feel about the world around him?
- Where does he find hope in the midst of his distress and despair?

John 4:13-14

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

- How does Jesus provide the ultimate answer to the psalmist's lament?

Application

- How does our modern world parallel what the psalmist is going through?
 - Do you ever feel like evil is winning?
- What can we learn from the psalmist to face these emotions?

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit – which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

- How does the spiritual armor prepare us to deal with a world that is often discouraging?
- What practical steps do we need to take to put on the Spiritual armor?

Next Steps

- Memorize 1 John 3:13-14 and/or 19-20

Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death.

This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things.

- Join the Celebration Family and read all of the Psalms together! Check out this reading plan in the YouVersion Bible App. <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/27275>
- Watch “How to Read the Psalms” by The Bible Project on RightNow Media- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/182905>
- Create your own plan for daily Bible reading and implement it.
- Looking for more information on how to study the Bible? Check out Living by the Book by Dr. Howard Hendricks on RightNow Media- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/226788>