



SMALL GROUP GUIDE:

Finding God's Goodness in Difficult Seasons

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. Remembering God's goodness protects and fuels us in life's trying moments.
2. Comparison and envy can lead to spiritual stumbling and doubt.
3. Seeking God's presence provides new perspective in challenging times.
4. Focusing on the Lord leads to joy, while focusing on others leads to despair.
5. Trust in God and never give up, even when life seems unfair.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon begins with the statement "Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart." How do you remind yourself of God's goodness during difficult times?
2. The psalmist admits to almost stumbling in his faith due to envy. Can you share a time when comparison to others challenged your faith? How did you overcome it?
3. The sermon mentions that our "first conclusions regarding our problems are seldom our best." How can we practice patience and wisdom when facing challenges?
4. How does seeking God's presence change our perspective on difficult circumstances? Share an experience where entering God's presence shifted your outlook.
5. The pastor emphasizes the importance of being cautious about who we share our struggles with. How can we balance being authentic about our struggles while not negatively impacting others' faith?
6. What practical steps can we take to focus our minds and hearts on God rather than on comparing ourselves to others?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, start each day by writing down three ways God has been good to you.
2. Identify an area of comparison or envy in your life. Create a plan to limit exposure to triggers (e.g., social media fasts, gratitude journaling).
3. Set aside dedicated time each day to enter God's presence through prayer, worship, or Scripture reading.
4. Choose a trusted friend or mentor to share your struggles with, and commit to praying for each other regularly.
5. Memorize a key verse from Psalm 73 (e.g., verse 28: "But as for me, the nearness of God is my good") to meditate on during challenging moments.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His constant goodness and presence. Ask for His help in trusting Him during difficult seasons and maintaining focus on Him rather than others.