



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: PSALM 74

SMALL GROUP GUIDE: KEEPING A STEADFAST MIND IN DIFFICULT TIMES

OPENING QUESTION:

SHARE A TIME WHEN YOU FACED A CHALLENGING SITUATION THAT FELT OVERWHELMING. HOW DID YOU RESPOND?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. IN TIMES OF DESPAIR AND CONFUSION, WE SHOULD MAKE PRAYER OUR FIRST RESPONSE.
2. NOTHING SLIPS THROUGH GOD'S FINGERS - HE IS ALL-POWERFUL AND INTIMATELY AWARE OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.
3. REMEMBERING GOD'S PAST PROVISIONS AND DISPLAYS OF POWER CAN STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH IN PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.
4. GOD IS COMMITTED TO HIS PEOPLE, HIS PROMISES, AND HIS PURPOSES.
5. A STEADFAST MIND FOCUSED ON GOD LEADS TO PERFECT PEACE, EVEN IN TUMULTUOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. THE PSALMIST CRIES OUT TO GOD IN RAW, HONEST PRAYER. HOW COMFORTABLE ARE YOU WITH EXPRESSING YOUR TRUE EMOTIONS TO GOD? WHAT HOLDS YOU BACK FROM BEING COMPLETELY HONEST IN PRAYER?
2. DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBERING GOD'S PAST FAITHFULNESS. HOW CAN WE PRACTICALLY CULTIVATE THIS HABIT IN OUR DAILY LIVES?

3. THE SERMON MENTIONS SEVERAL SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ABOUT GOD'S POWER AND CONTROL (JOB 42:2, JEREMIAH 32:17, PSALM 115:3, MATTHEW 10:29-30). WHICH OF THESE VERSES RESONATES WITH YOU MOST AND WHY?
4. HOW DOES FOCUSING ON GOD'S COMMITMENT TO HIS PROMISES AND PURPOSES CHANGE OUR PERSPECTIVE ON DIFFICULT SITUATIONS?
5. THE SERMON SUGGESTS THAT OUR OPTIMISM SHOULD FLOW FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD RATHER THAN JUST POSITIVE THINKING. HOW CAN WE DISTINGUISH BETWEEN BIBLICAL HOPE AND MERE OPTIMISM?
6. DISCUSS THE CONCEPT OF A "STEADFAST MIND" AS MENTIONED IN ISAIAH 26:3. WHAT PRACTICAL STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO KEEP OUR MINDS STEADFAST ON GOD DURING CHALLENGING TIMES?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS:

1. START A "REMEMBER NOTEBOOK" TO RECORD INSTANCES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS IN YOUR LIFE.
2. PRACTICE TURNING TO PRAYER AS YOUR FIRST RESPONSE THIS WEEK WHENEVER YOU FACE A DIFFICULT SITUATION OR EMOTION.
3. MEMORIZE ONE OF THE SCRIPTURE VERSES MENTIONED IN THE SERMON ABOUT GOD'S POWER AND CONTROL.
4. SHARE WITH A PARTNER ONE AREA OF YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU NEED TO TRUST GOD MORE FULLY. COMMIT TO PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER IN THESE AREAS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.
5. BEFORE YOUR NEXT GROUP MEETING, INTENTIONALLY LOOK FOR WAYS GOD IS WORKING IN YOUR CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN IF THEY'RE CHALLENGING. COME PREPARED TO SHARE WITH THE GROUP.

CLOSING PRAYER:

CLOSE THE SESSION BY HAVING GROUP MEMBERS PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER, SPECIFICALLY FOCUSING ON AREAS WHERE INDIVIDUALS NEED GOD'S PEACE AND INTERVENTION IN THEIR LIVES.