



Small Group Guide: Psalm 81 - Listening and Obeying God

Key Takeaways:

1. God commands us to worship and rejoice, not just as a suggestion but as an obligation.
2. Loving God takes practice, much like developing any other skill.
3. Singing together is a powerful act of worship that unifies believers physically and spiritually.
4. God's rescue of His people gives us reason to worship Him.
5. There's a difference between hearing and listening - listening implies heeding and obeying.
6. God will give us what we want most - either Himself or ourselves.
7. Obedience to God leads to joy and fulfillment.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon emphasized the importance of singing in worship. How comfortable are you with singing in church? What challenges do you face in participating fully?
2. Reflect on a time when God rescued you from a difficult situation. How did that experience impact your worship and relationship with Him?
3. The speaker mentioned that "loving God takes practice." What are some practical ways we can practice loving God in our daily lives?
4. How do you distinguish between merely hearing God's word and truly listening to it? Share an example from your own life.
5. The sermon talked about "going with the grain" of God's design for the universe. In what areas of your life do you find yourself struggling to align with God's ways?
6. Discuss the statement: "Fruitfulness is dependent on faithfulness." How have you seen this play out in your spiritual life?
7. The speaker mentioned that "God will give us what we want most." What do you think you want most in your life right now? How does that align with what God wants for you?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, challenge yourself to sing more during personal devotion time or in church, even if you feel uncomfortable.
2. Keep a "rescue journal" for a month, writing down daily instances where you see God's hand in your life.
3. Choose one area where you struggle to obey God and commit to "practicing" obedience in that area for the next week.
4. Set aside time each day to not just read Scripture, but to actively listen for God's voice and guidance.
5. Identify one way you can "go with the grain" of God's design in an area where you've been resistant.
6. Share with the group next week how focusing on obedience has impacted your joy and relationship with God.
7. Reflect on what you truly want most in life. Pray for God to align your desires with His will for you.