

Study Guide - 17 May, 2020

Series: Psalms

Text: Psalm 13



This guide will help you facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. You should spend at least half your time discussing questions that are application focused. Look at the Big Idea and What your CG Must Take Away sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused.

Introduction and Series Overview

The purpose of this series is to teach the church to delight in God, enjoy our walk and relationship with him, and see him as our joy in all situations, through the 4 Psalms (34, 33, 13, 143). It is our hope that these Psalms will teach us what it means to truly experience the joy of the Christian faith, because God is our delight.

Context and Text Structure

Psalm 13 is classified as a lament psalm. It is a deeply emotive psalm, expressing deep sorrows for the psalmist situation while pleading desperately for God's deliverance. However, even as the psalmist moves from lament to plea, the psalm also ends in eventual hope and trust in God. In the words of Martin

Luther, psalm 13 demonstrates that "hope despairs and yet despair hopes".

V1-2: Lament and cries of sorrow

V3-4: Pleading for God's deliverance

V5-6: Hoping and trusting in God

Big Idea

Finding joy in the midst of our lamentations to God

CG Takeaway

To lament, to pray, and look back to how God has dealt bountifully with us so that we can rejoice in him.

1. David presents a list of sorrows to God in verses 1 to 2. How would you categorise his laments?
2. Think about our own experiences of deep struggle and sorrow. How do you approach God in those times?
3. What is the difference between faith-filled lamentation (like David), and complaining devoid of faith?
4. How does David's tone change from v1 to v3?
5. What are the specific requests of the Psalmist in Verse 3?
6. Why is David's plea against death (v3) so important for God's people?
7. How are David's requests in verse 3 similar or different from what we might usually ask when we are in the midst of trial?
8. David's situation does not change in this Psalm. How does his engagement with God throughout the Psalm allow him to eventually draw strength to trust and worship God? (v5-6)
9. How has Jesus, as our better King, fulfilled this Psalm for us, and what is the result?
- 10a. How does this Psalm teach us to respond to suffering and despondency?
- 10b. How does this psalm teach us how to rejoice, even while we are suffering?
- 10c. How does remembering God's steadfast love for you in the past, help you at times when you are despondent and when God feels far off?