

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR READ THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY 2/20/13

1. PSALMS 18 AND 19 SEEM TO FORM ONE GREAT SONG IN WHICH DAVID PRAISES GOD FOR USING HIS MIGHT AND STRENGTH TO PROTECT AND CARE FOR HIS PEOPLE. IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN TO YOUR GROUP SEVERAL PICTURES OF GOD'S STRENGTH IN THESE TWO PSALMS THAT BRING YOU COMFORT AND JOY?
2. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GAME TO PLAY? WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VACATION SPOT? ALL OF US HAVE OUR FAVORITES. PSALMS 23-28 CONTAIN BIBLE PASSAGES THAT HAVE BECOME FAVORITES OF MANY PEOPLE. LOOK AT THESE PASSAGES: PSALM 23:1; PSALM 24:7; PSALM 25:7; PSALM 26:8; PSALM 27:1; PSALM 28:7. WHAT IS THE MESSAGE OF EACH ONE? WHAT MAKES THEM FAVORITES? IN THESE PSALMS, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PASSAGE? EXPLAIN WHY IT IS ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU.
3. PSALMS 29-34 MENTION MANY BLESSINGS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN HIS PEOPLE. IN CHRIST WE ARE THESE "SAINTS" (PSALM 34:11), AND "RIGHTEOUS" (PSALM 34:19) WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF THESE BLESSINGS. IDENTIFY SOME BLESSINGS OF GOD THAT, IN CHRIST, ARE ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU. TRY THESE AS STARTERS: PSALM 29:11; PSALM 30:2; PSALM 31:21-22; PSALM 32:5; PSALM 33:4-5; PSALM 34:17-18. USE A CIRCLE PRAYER AT THE END OF TODAY'S LESSON TO THINK GOD FOR YOUR MANY BLESSINGS IN CHRIST.
4. DAVID IS THE AUTHOR OF PSALMS 34-41. IN THEM WE SEE DAVID AS A REAL HUMAN BEING, LIKE US. HE ANGUISHES OVER THE PLOTS AND SLULLDUGGERY THAT HIS ENEMIES USE AGAINST HIM AND ASKS GOD TO PAY THEM BACK (PSALM 35:1-8). HE IS BURDENED BY THE HORRIBLE SINS THAT PEOPLE CAN COMMIT (PSALM 36:4) AND HE SHUDDERS AT HIS OWN SIN (PSALM 38:5-8). YET HE TURNS IT ALL OVER TO GOD. READ AND DISCUSS THESE PASSAGES TO LET GOD'S WORD HELP YOU WHEN YOU SHARE DAVID'S FEELINGS: PSALM 35:22; PSALM 36:5-6; PSALM 37:1-4; PSALM 38:15, 21-22; PSALM 39:7-8; PSALM 40:4; PSALM 41:13.
5. PSALMS 42 AND 43 FORM ONE PRAYER AND THEY HAVE A COMMON REFRAIN. READ IT TOGETHER (PSALM 42:5, 11; PSALM 43:5). THEN MAKE A PRAYER LIST FROM THE CONCERNS OF YOUR GROUP AND USE THIS REFRAIN AFTER LAYING EACH CONCERN BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER. REJOICE IN THE PROMISES OF GOD THAT YOUR PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED JUST AS SURELY AS CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

6. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE RIDDLE? THE PSALMIST PRESENTS A RIDDLE IN PSALM 49. WHY SHOULD I FEAR WHEN EVIL DAYS COME AND THE WICKED SURROUND US (VERSE 5)? WHAT ARE HIS REASONS FOR NOT FEARING THAT HE PRESENT IN THE REST OF THE PSALM? ONE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE COMES IN PSALM 52:8. HOW WOULD YOU STATE THE PSALMIST'S ANSWER OF FAITH. WHAT SUPPORT DO YOU FIND FOR YOUR ANSWER IN PSALMS 48:48-53 AND ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPTURE?

7. MANY PEOPLE ARE WEIGHED DOWN BY MISFORTUNES- SEVERAL SERIOUS HEALTH ISSUES, BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS, JOB RELATED DIFFICULTIES-- AND THE LOAD SEEMS TO GET HEAVIER BY THE DAY. WHAT DIFFICULTIES WEIGH DOWN PEOPLE YOU KNOW? DAVID FELT THAT HE WAS SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES AND EVILDOERS (SEE ESPECIALLY PSALM 59). HE WAS WEIGHED DOWN BY HIS OWN SIN. WHICH SECTIONS OF PSALMS 54=60 INDICATE THAT GOD WAS HIS SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND HOPE? WHICH VERSES GIVE YOU HOPE AND STRENGTH WHEN YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY DIFFICULTIES?