



SUMMER in the PSALMS

July 9, 2023

DAVID'S DARK DAY

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

1

This psalm is categorized as a lament. What are the circumstances of the psalmist? Consider his physical state (v. 14-17) his social status (v. 6-8, 18), and his spiritual anguish, including the threatening animal symbolism (v. 1-2, 12-13, 16).

2

Which image from the psalm stands out to you the most? Are any of them especially relatable?

3

Although the psalm begins with utter despair and David feeling abandoned by God, there are two points where he remembers something encouraging. Both instances begin with “yet” (v. 3 and 9). What is the essence of these two “yets”? What encouragement does the psalmist find?

4

How has remembering what God has done in the past (either in your own life or in the days of “our fathers”) encouraged you when you’ve felt that God was far off?

5

After describing his circumstances and remembering how God has acted in the past, the psalmist turns to his urgent requests in v. 19-21 and then begins a section of anticipatory praise (v. 22-31). Do we usually ask and praise in the same breath? How does this psalm model an attitude of confidence in the Lord's goodness?

6

Jesus quotes this psalm from the cross and it mirrors elements of the crucifixion narrative (cf. Ps. 22:18 and Matt. 27:35; Ps. 22: 7 and Matt. 27:39; Ps. 22:8 and Matt. 27:43; Ps. 22:1 and Matt. 27:46). How does this psalm add depth to your understanding of Jesus' experience of the cross?

7

How do verses 27 and 28 point to the fulfillment of both the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:3) and the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-13)?

8

The psalm ends with a commitment to not only "tell of your name to my brothers" (v. 22), but also to "proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn that he has done it"(v.31)--in other words, "It is finished." What is the relationship between answered prayer in our lives and our witness to the world?

