

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 13, 2019
Memory Passage: Psalm 22:19-22

Passage: Psalm 22: 1-31

DAY 1 ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read the first verse of Psalms 3, 34, 51, 52, & 63. In these and other Psalms we are given the background of why the Psalm was written and the details surrounding the inspiration for the Song. Why are we not given any details about what David was going through that caused him to write this song of lament?

(b) Imagine you are an OT Jew living in Ancient Israel at any point between King David and the time of Jesus. There are many trials for the nation as well as individual trials for you that would have caused you to sing a psalm of lament. How would the fact that this psalm does not provide background information influence you to sing this psalm or a different one?

DAY 2 ASK FOR INSIGHT

Read Psalm 22:1-21

(a) Explain how David can claim that he was forsaken by God?

(b) Hebrews 13:5 tells us that God will never leave us nor forsake us. Is this a New Testament promise and concept? Based on the revelation of scripture prior to the life of David, is this an idea and promise that David would have been familiar with? Answer these questions and provide, any scripture, that helped you form your answers before you read the next line.

(c) Read Gen 28:15, Deut 31: 6-8, Jos 1:5, 1 Sam 12:22, 1 Chron 28:20, Ps 37:25-28. Now answer the first question of today again. How can David claim that he was forsaken by God? Was David actually forsaken or was it just that he felt forsaken? Was David forsaken because of his sin? Why did you answer that last question the way that you did?

DAY 3 ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ Psalm 22:1-21

(a) Yesterday we looked at the promises that God will not leave His people and will not forsake them, but yet David felt forsaken. Take an inventory of your life, and what times in your life have you felt forsaken by God?

(b) In our life experience, we have some trials that we "feel God's presence" and some that we feel as if God has forsaken us. Why? Take time to meditate on your past and/or present trials, and how your relationship with God seemed to change. When it felt like God was not near and could not be found, were you forsaken, or did you forsake God?

(c) What is David telling us about trials in this Psalm? What was David's response to the "feeling" of being rejected by God? In the first 21 verses, we are taught some invaluable lessons of how to deal with trials, especially overwhelming trials, what are at least two lessons? (Hint, we should _____ without _____, and we should _____ the _____ to ourselves. The second is something that Pastor Rob reminds us all the time.)

DAY 4 ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ Psalm 22:1-21

(a) We see David reminding himself of the goodness of God. What two sources of information does David use to remind himself of the nature of God? Of the two sources, which is the most reliable, and how does David show us that it is more reliable in this Psalm?

(b) Above two sources were mentioned to show us and remind us of the nature of God during our trials. (verses 3-5 and 9-10) How are you using these two sources to make your trials easier?

(c) God has given us these two sources (and more), and the psalmist has shown us how they are beneficial during our darkest trials. Knowing that we are lazy, forgetful, prone to doubt by nature, how are some ways that you can be better prepared to utilize these sources of knowledge and encouragement during your next trial? List at least 3 ways for each.

DAY 5 ASK FOR INSIGHT

Read Psalm 22: 22-31

(a) In the last 10 verses of the Psalm we see David starting to praise and rejoice and pay his vows. What changed?

(b) Does this Psalm teach us that if we pray like David in the first 21 verses, that God will hear our prayer and we will have "happy" results to all of our trials?

(c) Assuming you answered NO to the question on (b), now answer these questions. How does this understanding, that God is not obligated to deliver us in a way that we would consider favorable, impact your prayers during your trials? And how does it impact you when you encourage others to pray during their trials? These two questions are very difficult to answer honestly, but avoiding the difficult questions and their answers does not help us grow spiritually. After answering those questions, take time to confess as needed.

You listed at least 6 ways total to prepare for your next hard, dark trial at the end of day four's questions. Have you implemented any, or all, or more than those today? If so, which ones? If not, WHY?

DATE: October 13, 2019

Passage: Psalm 22: 1-31

My God, My God, Why?