

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Independence Day

These questions are for the **July 1, 2018** sermon, "Clapping and Shouting." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 47:1-9) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE APPROACH INDEPENDENCE DAY, CONSIDER GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY, AND NOTE . . .

1. God's works among the nations (1-4)
 - a. "Elohim" (rather than "Yahweh") is used in this Psalm
 - i. This psalm instructs us about God's creation, power and rule over all the earth.
 - ii. In English, this is "God," instead of "LORD."
 - b. While God has worked through Israel, he reigns over the whole earth.
 - c. Even in the smallest of matters, God is working out all his plans and purposes.
 - d. Our response should be singing and joy! God reigns!!
2. God's challenge to the nations (5-7)
 - a. God instructs all nations to keep their eyes on him and to sing to him.
 - b. He invites every creature to fall under his good rule and reign.
3. God's reign over the nations (8-9)
 - a. God's sovereign rule extends to the enemies of Israel (like Iran, for instance)
 - b. God's sovereign rule extends to evil nations (like North Korea and even us!)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Sometimes we speak of God's love (or as "Father"), but here we are emphasizing his power and perfect rule over the earth. God has given us multiple pictures so that we can know him better and love him more. How do you know God better or love him more as you consider the fact that he is Creator, all-powerful and completely sovereign?
2. Based on #1, above: God is at work in the smallest of details of our lives. Think back to details from 10 years ago (or more) in your life. How has God used those details for good and for your development? How has he shown himself sovereign? What detail of your life today seems out of control? Is he still sovereign? Is he still good?
3. Based on #2, above: Every person in the world would do well to submit themselves to God and embrace his rule over them. We would all be happy if we obeyed God. How does the fact that God has instructed every nation to sing to him fuel our passion for world missions and local discipleship?
4. Based on #2, above: Where do you serve God? Who are you teaching to "sing to him"?
5. Based on #3, above: God is at work in enemy nations and in enemy hearts. He is at work in North Korea, Iran, Russia, Israel and even the USA. Everyone is instructed to come to God. And that takes courage. Tell us when you came to God. What enemy mindset did you have to leave behind? How have you transferred your allegiance to God?