

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

*Memorial Day*

These questions are for the **May 30, 2021** sermon, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 46) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

1. When trouble comes, confidently trust God. (1-3)
  - a. Trouble of all kinds will characterize our lives. We are "pressed" from all sides.
  - b. Natural phenomena such as mudslides, earthquakes and flooding can change our lives.
  - c. But God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in every situation.
    - i. REFUGE: protected place of restoration. He is our defense.
    - ii. STRENGTH: ongoing capacity to continue on-mission. He is our offense.
    - iii. "Very present": he is easily and constantly available. Well-proven.
    - iv. "Help" (passive and future): he waits for us to drop everything and ask him.
  - d. And this (God's ever-present and certain help) is the reason why "we will not fear."
2. When trouble stays, confidently draw near to God. (4-7)
  - a. National phenomena such as politics and wars and cultures dead-set against God arise.
  - b. But as the nations resist, God "makes his home" "in the midst" of his people.
  - c. When we turn to him with confidence, we not only do not fear, we are "made glad."
  - d. Note the chorus: "The all-powerful covenant keeper will always come through."
3. When trouble tempts, confidently behold the works of God. (8-11)
  - a. The remedy to long-lasting trouble is a disciplined focus on the works of the Lord.
    - i. All that he has done in the past (in creation and covenant-making).
    - ii. All that he has done (now) in the past (redemption and Christ's resurrection).
    - iii. All that he will do in the future (returning in complete victory over all nations).
  - b. God's people and nations should stop all of their resisting and come to know him.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God is both the defense and the offense, which ought to put an end to all fear. Are you afraid? Are you afraid of sudden episodes of trouble which may crop up? How has this passage instructed your confidence? In what ways do your emotions still sometimes turn toward fear? In what ways are you growing in confidence in God?
2. Based on #1, above: How has God shown himself to be your "well-proven" help?
3. Based on #2, above: Even while we are completely surrounded nations who resist God, the people of God are "glad" because he makes his home with us. The "stream" here represents God's providence and blessing. Would you say that you are learning to sing songs of gladness because God is close to you? Even while surrounded by trouble? Describe these rising songs.
4. Based on #3, above: verse 10 is one of the most famous verses in Scripture. We are called to stop all of our own striving, and that the ceasing of these efforts is a prerequisite for knowing God. We can do this when we examine or "behold" all the works of God. How can you improve at the discipline of taking your eyes OFF your looming troubles, and keeping your eyes ON the works of the Lord?