

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **September 19, 2021** sermon, "The Hearing We Seek." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 5) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

IN ORDER TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY DURING DISTRESSING TIMES, NOTE . . .

1. The preparations we need to make. (1-3)
 - a. Begin the day with prayer, asking God's blessing on known and unknown appointments. Order your prayers: plan them out.
 - b. Note the growing intensity of prayer in these verses . . .
 - i. Hear my words.
 - ii. Consider my groanings (I often don't know what to say).
 - iii. Respond to my cries (desperate pleading for help).
 - c. Even King David did not ask God to do it David's way, but to do it God's way.
2. The truths we need to stress. (4-6)
 - a. God opposes those who oppose him.
 - b. God is holy.
3. The requests we need to bring. (7-8)
 - a. While surrounded by powerful enemies, David is certain of God's steadfast love.
 - b. From that certainty, David asks God: "Lead me in your righteousness."
4. The contrasts we need to discern. (9-12)
 - a. The evil ones must bear their own guilt, opposed to God.
 - b. The righteous ones enjoy God and the happy umbrella of his righteous protection.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: David plans out his prayer life and disciplines himself to begin his day in prayer in the morning. How does his example both inform and inspire your prayer life? How could you improve in planning? How is routine (habit) important in prayer? Note that even in his habit, David brings great passion (words, groanings, cries).
2. Based on #2, above: God is holy. The future for all who oppose him involves judgment. How does God's character and holiness fuel your prayer life?
3. Based on #3, above: The main request that David brings to God in his praying and groaning and crying is, "O Lord, while this pain and trouble persists, lead me in your righteous ways." He does not pray that the suffering ends or that affliction is avoided. How does this pray instruct you?
4. Based on #4, above: Those who reject God live a miserable and rebellious life, opposed to God now and forever. Does this break your heart? David wants no part of their way of life or counsel. Instead, all of David's joy and happiness comes from the certainty that God listens (1-3), protects and favors (9-12) his people. David would rather have tons of earthly trouble and the certainty of God's steadfast love than any advice from the rebellious. Would you?