

## LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## *Psalms Series*

These questions are for the **November 14, 2021**, sermon, "Song of the Cross, Part 1." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 22:1-21) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE REFLECT UPON HOW THIS PSALM POINTS TOWARD CHRIST'S CROSS, NOTE . . .

1. The relational distance being described. (1-5)
  - a. "My God, my God . . ."
    - i. Sometimes it seems as if God is very far away.
    - ii. Trust God even when he seems very far away.
  - b. While awaiting answers from God . . .
    - i. Review the endless examples of his past faithfulness even in your own life).
    - ii. God does his best teaching in the silence of questions waiting to be answered.
  - c. Jesus uttered these words while on the cross, keeping God's promise to you.
2. The verbal abuse being expressed. (6-11)
  - a. We may hear/repeat belittling/mocking words, especially when we trust God.
  - b. Yet God has been faithful all of our days. And he always will be faithful.
3. The physical sufferings bring endured. (12-21)
  - a. These references (to piercing and Jesus' crucifixion) prophesy!
    - i. Of Jesus' death in our place (substitution)
    - ii. Of the Roman government's means of crucifixion (1,000 years prior)
  - b. Jesus is ready to repeat and trust God's Word, even in painful physical affliction.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: There's no doubt that we do not always receive immediate answers to our prayers in the way we wanted. We feel forsaken or distant from God. Describe a moment when you felt distant from God, or you felt he made himself distant from you.
2. Based on #1, above: Jesus prayed that if there was a way to avoid the cross, that God would allow it: "Yet, not my will, but yours be done." And then he quoted Psalm 22 as he endured our punishment on the cross. Does it help you to know that all of Jesus' requests were not answered as he preferred? In what ways does it help you to know that he felt distant from God?
3. Based on #2, above: The world mocks and belittles people. The world especially mocks and belittles people who continue to trust the Lord (even when he seems far away). David and Jesus kept quiet and completely faithful as they kept trusting the Lord when verbally abused. What can we learn from them? How does their example encourage strong and faithful perseverance?
4. Based on #3, above: When this Psalm was written (1000 BC), the Romans were not in power, and no existing government had crucified people or "pierced" them. How does this very specific prophecy impact your confidence in the Scriptures, in the identity of Messiah and your overall faith?