

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **April 3, 2022**, sermon, "Does God believe in atheists?" Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 53) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS WE CONSIDER GOD'S RELATIONSHIP TO THIS WORLD, NOTE . . .

1. The conditions that God observes. (1-3)
 - a. This world contains many "fools" who say, "there is no God."
 - i. The fool says this internally, in the heart.
 - ii. Compare Genesis 6:5, 1 Chron 28:9 and 1 Sam 16. God knows the heart.
 - b. God thoroughly inspects every heart, but none passes the evaluation.
 - i. Romans 3:10. There is "none righteous." None are good enough.
 - ii. One may be "good" compared to another, but none is "good" like God is good.
2. The scattering that God produces. (4-5)
 - a. Those who do not trust or call upon God are fearful of everything (or nothing).
 - b. God will not allow their rebellion to continue. All their foolishness will come to nothing.
 - c. Do not allow yourself to think that the fool is getting away with something.
3. The longing that God fulfills. (6)
 - a. God has produced the Messiah, the only Savior, out of Jerusalem. We long for him!
 - b. God will protect and provide for his people. All who trust him will rejoice and celebrate!

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God's approach to fools is to see them and call them out. They have time right now to repent. Are you troubled about fools? Avoiding them? What are some effective ways to hold Christ out to foolish people?
2. Based on #1, above: The exhaustive reality is that every person begins life and walks in foolishness (Rom 3:10). Does your experience as a fool give you mercy and compassion toward the current fools? Who are you currently weeping and praying for?
3. Based on #2, above: Fools take aim at God's people, intending to "eat them up." But they are the ones who live with unfounded fears and make irrational decisions, as if there is no God. Your life of quiet and calm confidence in God will "put them to shame," in God's timing. Discuss this.
4. Based on #3, above: God is not wringing his hands or overly worried about the number of fools in this world. Are you? Are you able rejoice and be glad (v. 6) in your devotion and service to God, even while fools wander and scheme against you?