

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **April 24, 2022**, sermon, "People Problems." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 54) together out loud.

Passage Outline

1. Dealing with complete human betrayal. (1-3)
 - a. The inscription gives us the occasion: my brothers (Ziphites) have betrayed me.
 - i. David feels completely attacked (needs vindication). (1)
 - ii. David feels completely opposed (risen against me). (3)
 - b. David here cries out to God in prayer.
 - i. He asks for God to intervene with his strength. (1)
 - ii. He asks God to intervene in his name. (1)
 - iii. God will never betray us, but will save his people according to his name.
2. Fixing your eyes upon the Lord when you are betrayed. (4-5)
 - a. "Behold" is a visual imperative: "Willfully direct your eyes to God."
 - b. David asks for vindication for himself (1, 4) and judgment for his enemies (5).
 - i. Asking that God reveal our innocence requires that we walk in innocence.
 - ii. God helps those who belong to him. We wait on him to act.
 - iii. Jesus is the ultimate and perfect example of God's vindication of his servant.
3. Response: worship God with thanksgiving and confidence. (6-7)
 - a. The general name for God (1) speaks of might, but the specific name (6) of goodness.
 - b. The faithful worshiper learns to offer thanks even before deliverance is realized.
 - c. The faithful worshiper envisions a future (7) where God's every promise is kept.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: David is betrayed by his own brothers (Ziphites), who tell Saul, the king, of his whereabouts. They were doing what faithful citizens do (loyal to the king). Have you ever been betrayed by fellow believers? Describe the situation. Describe the disappointment.
2. Based on #1, above: David appeals to God verbally and directly (prays) while the pain and danger from the betrayal was ongoing. How has pain and danger taught you to cry out to God in prayer? What does a vital prayer life teach us about David? In what ways are you learning to cry out to God?
3. Based on #2, above: One key factor in dealing with betrayal is to behold or "focus your attention on" God and his character, rather than the actions of the enemy. It's not that we act like the enemy does not exist, but that we are intentional about focusing on God. What impact will it have on your day if you could look away from pain, relational disappointment, tensions and betrayal? How does Jesus' example and the substance of his work help you do this?
4. Based on #3, above: When we look ahead to the future, we know that God will vindicate his followers and judge his enemies. Are you completely confident that God's purposes will be accomplished perfectly? How does this impact your joy?