

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **July 17, 2022**, sermon, "Maintaining Traction." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 73) together out loud.

Passage Outline

WHEN THE INJUSTICES OF LIFE SEEM OVERWHELMING, NOTE . . .

1. The assumptions we need to evaluate. (1-14)
 - a. Our assumption: It seems like the wicked are flourishing, and "the arrogant" prospering.
 - i. They have more ease and money than the righteous.
 - ii. The righteous have more "pangs" and afflictions than they.
 - b. "Have all efforts toward a 'clean heart' gone unnoticed? Will they be unrewarded?"
 - i. Honestly, "my steps had nearly slipped" into discouragement.
 - ii. Where to start? Is it my affliction? Or their success? Or God's goodness?
2. The perspective we need to develop. (15-20)
 - a. Start here: cast your vision / eyes on the goodness of God.
 - i. In the sanctuary, the place of God's special presence, we experience God.
 - ii. When the righteous are confused, it is good to approach God.
 - b. The unrighteous face a certain and devastating future.
 - i. Their steps are "slippery" (18) and they will be "destroyed in a moment" (19).
 - ii. The righteous experience God's goodness, but the wicked are despised.
3. The refuge we need to seek. (21-28)
 - a. We have bitter disappointments in life, which we acknowledge.
 - b. But God's grace, especially given in his personal presence, is enough.
 - i. We begin with the presence of God (v. 1): "Truly God is good."
 - ii. We circle back to the presence of God (v. 28): "It is good to be near God."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: It appears that the ungodly are "living their best life." In what ways have you struggled with envy of the ungodly? This may be in the area of their "prosperity" (2-3), their length of days or maybe their seeming contentment in throwing off God's authority. It could seem to us as if they are "getting away with it."
2. Based on #1, above: It also appears that believers are constantly laboring, especially for righteousness and being "pure of heart." (1) It feels as if we are constantly waiting for God to come through and rescue us. Do you ever grow weary of "laboring" and "waiting"?
3. Based on #2, above: We are called to make God our starting point (1, 28). When you remember that any seeming flourishing for the unrighteous is warped (tethered to sin), miniscule and multiplying coming judgment, does your perspective change? They have not and will not make God their starting point (at least not yet). Their life without God is pitiable and so very sad.
4. Based on #3, above: God has promised to "never leave us or forsake us" and to be "with us to the end of the age." In what ways are your affections stoked when you make God your starting point?