

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **November 13, 2022**, sermon, "Beyond East and West." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 103) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS WE CONSIDER HOW TO BLESS THE LORD, NOTE

1. The personal challenge being issued. (1-5)
 - a. "C'mon, Soul! Bless the Lord!"
 - i. Our cry in times of trouble is not "Bless me, God!"
 - ii. The soul needs to be reminded, prodded and encouraged to "Bless the Lord."
 - iii. The test of maturity: bless the Lord while experiencing suffering / loss.
 - b. Do not forget his blessings! (He forgives, heals, redeems, crowns and satisfies.)
2. The steadfast love being described. (6-19)
 - a. God puts us in wilderness settings to prove himself to us.
 - b. The degree and amount of "hesed" (steadfast love) we experience is immeasurable.
3. The cosmic appeal being delivered. (20-22)
 - a. All of creation for all time is instructed to bless the Lord.
 - i. We bless the Lord: honoring to him as King. (Recognizing all his WORKS.)
 - ii. We bless the Lord: submitting to him as King. (Loving him for WHO HE IS.)
 - b. God needs no votes. He has dominion over all of creation.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: To "bless the Lord" is to remember all of his works and to love him for who he is, including submitting to his authority.
 - David's soul needed a pep talk. This means that a) he was downcast and had a season where he did not feel like 'blessing' God. And b) he did not let himself stay in that condition. How have you improved at encouraging your own soul to "Bless the Lord"?
 - David made a list of what he possessed from the Lord that would never be taken away (see 1. b. above). Make a specific list of blessings that you possess from the Lord.
2. Based on #1, above: Discuss this: the test of Christian maturity is blessing the Lord when we experience suffering and loss. How is God sanctifying (maturing) you?
3. Based on #2, above: God puts us in wilderness settings and literally removes seasons of comfort and ease from us in order to prove himself and his benefits. He desires for us to develop trust in him. Describe how you grew in trusting God during a recent "wilderness" season.
4. Based on #3, above: When believers "bless the Lord" during our wilderness experience, we are setting an example to the whole world. How are you encouraged knowing that angels and mighty ones and hosts and ministers (20-22) are all created to "bless the Lord"?