

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **February 26, 2023**, sermon, "I will call upon him." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 116) together out loud.

Passage Outline

1. The LORD uses great affliction to teach us to pray. (1-4)
 - a. As we cry out to him, he hears us and has "inclined his ear to me."
 - b. Great afflictions (snares, pangs, distress and anguish, v. 3) show us our weakness.
2. The LORD answers prayer. (5-11)
 - a. He is gracious to us: giving us wonderful gifts that we do not deserve. (5)
 - b. He is merciful to us: withholding great judgment which we deserve. (5)
 - c. Consider the many "bountiful" ways which the LORD has dealt with us. (7)
3. The LORD receives praise (hallelujah) because of answered prayer. (12-19)
 - a. We render, repay the LORD, with public worship:
 - i. Lift up the cup of salvation. (13)
 - ii. Pay our vows in the presence of the LORD's people. (14, 18)
 - iii. Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving. (17)
 - b. Let us "hallelujah," 'Praise the LORD'! (19)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The LORD uses great affliction to teach us that he is near, and how to cry out to him. What have you learned about the LORD nearness because of afflictions? What have afflictions taught you about "crying out" to the LORD?
2. Based on #2, above: Sometimes in the midst of afflictions, we think God has withheld good things, or given us too many hard things. But when we look back, we clearly see that the LORD has "dealt bountifully" with us. Give an example of how the LORD has dealt bountifully (kindly, in a way that promotes maturity) with you.
3. Based on #2, above: Are you currently frustrated with God in prayer?
4. Based on #3, above: One of the ways that the LORD builds his church and reaches the world is through ongoing and faithful public worship of his people. Which of these three "public worship" disciplines is easiest (or hardest) for you:
 - "Lift up the cup of salvation" (13): humbly remain focused on the LORD's provisions for you (especially justification and salvation in Jesus).
 - "Pay your vows" (14, 18): Happily fulfill what you have committed to the LORD (even when other may not).
 - "Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving" (17): Genuinely speak from a grateful heart about the wonderful things God has done (even when afflictions endure).