

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **June 25, 2023** message, “Answers for the afflicted.” Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 129) together out loud.

Passage Outline

WHEN SEEKING ANSWERS FOR TIMES OF AFFLICTION . . .

1. Review the past, focusing on the Lord’s righteousness. (1-4)
 - a. We have experienced great affliction throughout our lives.
 - i. Afflict: “to knock to the ground.”
 - ii. Yet our opponents have not prevailed against us.
 - b. The “why?” question can be unanswerable, and therefore, often unproductive.
 - i. Instead, we are wise to ask the “Who?” question, which directs us to the Lord.
 - ii. The Lord is the Righteous One, who saves the unrighteous who trust him.
 - c. The “plowing” hurts but is the prerequisite to the fruitful crop / reward.
2. Preview the future, focusing on the Lord’s supremacy. (5-8)
 - a. The Lord reigns supreme over every affliction, and redeems our afflictions.
 - i. Those who persist in rebellion will be cut-off, withering like grass.
 - ii. But the Lord provides redemption and protection for all his faithful ones.
 - b. The Lord and his faithfulness endure forever.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: What are some of the afflictions in your past that have made you ask “Why, God?” questions? Have you ultimately processed those questions so that you can leave the “Why?” questions to the Lord?
2. Based on #1, above: Even after enduring afflictions, we are called to see that the Lord is righteous forever. Are you able to worship the Lord and believe that he is righteous, though you have suffered greatly? How can you do that?
3. Based on #1, above: In the Lord’s faithful hands, plowing precedes a harvest of fruitfulness. In what ways have you experienced a fruitful season after the Lord brought you through a season of affliction? What did you learn about yourself and God?
4. Based on #2, above: Your future is very bright, very positive and defined by the victory of Jesus Christ. His faithfulness “endures forever,” which means that afflictions and trials do not endure. Think about a future when God sets everything—everything—right! Talk about the joy and hope that is multiplied when you consider that future.