

## LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## *Psalms Series*

These questions are for the **August 20**, 2023 message, "Prelude of praise." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 146) together out loud.

### Passage Outline

AS WE OFFER PRAISE TO OUR LORD, NOTE . . .

1. The durational aspect we maintain. (1-2)
  - a. We praise the LORD "as long as I live." (1)
    - i. Depth: we praise the LORD from our souls. From the inside-out.
    - ii. From the heights and in the depths, we exult in the Lord.
  - b. We praise the LORD "as long as I have being." (2)
    - i. Degree: confidently and constantly. What is inside (soul) makes it outside.
    - ii. If I can breathe, I can praise.
2. The political perspective we possess. (3-4)
  - a. We refuse to place our trust in any earthly prince or princess.
    - i. They are temporary, and all their plans are temporary. They cannot save.
    - ii. Even if they temporarily save, they are not worthy of praise. Acts 12:21, 23.
  - b. It is God alone who rules the universe. He appoints and deposes earthly presidents.
3. The creational insights we value. (5-7a)
  - a. When we look to creation we are reminded of God's grace and kindness.
  - b. He makes and keeps his promises (Covenant), to the glory of his great grace.
4. The providential care we experience. (7b-10)
  - a. The LORD sets free, opens blind eyes, lifts up the humble, loves the righteous.
  - b. He is gracious and kind to those who turn to him. Praise the LORD!

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: DEPTH: Your soul is your inner person, revealed in your attitudes, your habits of speech, what you think about the most and what you spend the most time doing. Is your soul—your true self—getting better at giving praise to the LORD at all times?
2. Based on #1, above: DEGREE: We will give praise to the LORD alone, and we will give all our praise to the LORD. Are there any competitors for praise in your heart? How do we become aware of these competitors and banish them from praise?
3. Based on #2, above: We think politicians and cultural influences are "worse than ever." But they are only "worse than ever" from our limited perspective. God is using every earthly politician to bring about his will and purposes (he rules!). In what way do we put too much trust in princes?
4. Based on #3, above: The LORD receives praise when his people remain focused on his grace and talk about it. When we are constrained, blinded, humiliated or wandering (8-9), he receives praise when we genuinely see what he has given (grace) us. How can you improve at remaining focused on God's grace and giving him praise?