

Into the Deep- Week 7 Small Group Questions

Ask:

1. Share with your group about a time you had to show courageous trust and/or share about a time you saw someone show courageous trust.
2. If comfortable, share about an area of your life where you would need more courage.

Read:

Psalm 27:1-6, The LORD is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? ²When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. ³Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident. ⁴The one thing I ask of the LORD—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD’s perfections and meditating in his Temple. ⁵For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock. ⁶Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me. At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the LORD with music.

Ask:

1. What stands out to you in this passage from King David?
2. What are some key words David uses to express His confidence in God?
3. Reread verse 4. What is David saying here? Do you believe we live with this same mindset? What should a life that has this mindset look like?

Read:

Psalm 27:7-12, Hear me as I pray, O LORD. Be merciful and answer me! ⁸My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “LORD, I am coming.” ⁹Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don’t leave me now; don’t abandon me, O God of my salvation! ¹⁰Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close. ¹¹Teach me how to live, O LORD. Lead me along the right path, for my enemies are waiting for me.

¹² Do not let me fall into their hands. For they accuse me of things I've never done; with every breath they threaten me with violence.

Ask:

1. Does anything seem different between the first and last six verses?
2. Pastor David Miller says, *"In verses 7-12, David desperately calls on God to be near him. David seeks an answer to his prayer. He asks God not to withdraw his presence from him. In verse 9, David prays, 'Do not reject me or forsake me, God, my Savior.' David, in these verses, is recognizing before God that he needs help. We read this Psalm and get a sense that David is feeling overwhelmed. We all know that feeling of being overwhelmed, inundated with the flood waters of life; we know the feelings of being alone—feeling that those who are closest to us have rejected or abandoned us. We identify with David. What happened that moved David from the summit of praise to God, to a place of tumultuous anxiety?"* **What do you think?**

Leaders Note: The answer to the above question lies in verses 11-12. Again, Pastor David Miller says, "David once again found himself surrounded by people who had the capacity to not only make his life miserable, but they could actually harm David physically. David, in the first part of the Psalm, ascended to the presence of God in worship and now that he finds himself once again in the deep waters of crisis, he calls out to God. In David's calling out to God, he is demonstrating COURAGEOUS TRUST."

3. How is David demonstrating courageous trust?
4. When life is great, it's easy to praise God, but when life is hard, it can be easy to blame God. Do you agree? Is God who you turn to first in the good and the bad? If not, who are you more tempted to turn to, especially when life is hard?

Read:

Psalm 27:14, Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.

Ask:

1. Even David knew he had to be brave and wait patiently for the Lord to answer. How well do you do at waiting on the Lord?
2. How could having a close and personal relationship with God like David help make it easier for you to wait on the Lord?

Apply:

1. What is one thing from this message that stood out to you the most?
2. Take some time this week to practice waiting on the Lord. Present your request to him through prayer and then practice waiting on the Lord by replacing intrusive worries and what-ifs (the moment they happen) with His Word and worship. Consider taking a passage like Psalm 27 and praying it out loud several times as if it's your prayer to the Lord instead of David's. Share with your group, at the next meeting, how your experience with replacing worries and what-ifs with the Word and worship went.