

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

10-19-25

OPENERS:

When have you been tempted to choose a “prosperous & wicked” path, instead of a “pure in heart” path that trusts in God’s goodness?

(taxes, finances, entertainment, parenting, work decisions...)

How do you counsel your child, about why bullies and troublemakers at school seem to get by with no consequences? How is God’s help/presence supposed to be available, when they are the victim?

DIGGING DEEPER (Issues raised in Psalm 73):

How would you summarize the “theodicy” issue that Asaph raises? (a vindication of the power & goodness of God, yet injustice seems to be rewarded more than right living)

Has this “theodicy” (touted by both skeptics and apologists as the THE ISSUE) ever been in conversations you’ve had with skeptics or seekers?... or just fodder for philosophers?

-If so, how do they express it as a valid concern (emotionally, experientially, philosophically, defiantly, with brokenness...)?

Like Asaph, how are we prone to exaggerate the lifestyles/opinions of those who oppose us? (politics, culture wars, the “filthy rich”...) What is our goal in doing so?

Verse 11 accused the wicked of assuming that God is not aware of their actions. Do people actually believe that? How do they express it? How are we tempted to think that way?

Verses 13-15 express Asaph’s futility about living pure. When have you/do you relate to this, and you nearly “lost your foothold” (v. 2)?

Verse 15- Asaph is hesitant to be honest with other believers about his struggle. How can we encourage openness with each other about these struggles? Is “brute beast” mode (v. 22) ok?

Verse 17 (“until I entered the sanctuary of God”) seems like a turning point for Asaph. How has that been true for you (privately with God, or in corporate worship/small group...)? How is “big church” encouraging to you, in a way that “small group” is not? Vice-versa...?

Verses 23-24 are Asaph’s “rear view mirror” of God’s crucial help. From Philip Yancey, “Faith is believing in advance what only makes sense in reverse.” So for you, has your faith seemed to grow stronger “in advance” (a greater degree of trust/risk), or stronger from “what makes sense in reverse” (the rear view mirror)?

Verses 25-28—which declaration phrase do you relate to the most/ why?

Essentials that help grow a “belief” in God’s goodness, into a “conviction” that He really is good/all the time: 1-Honesty about life; 2- Sincerity about community; 3- Childlike about trust. Agree or disagree?

-What has helped you grow from a “belief” (something you hold) to a “conviction” (something that holds you)?

How do you best keep God’s goodness at the forefront of your attitude (a song, a verse, a model saint, nature, health victories, answered prayers, family...)?

Quote Psalm 73:26 together out loud (or have someone quote it who has it for memory).