

Summer in the Psalms – Week Two -Small group guide

Small Group Guide: Psalm 84:5-8 - The Journey of Faith

Opening Prayer: Ask a volunteer to open the session in prayer, inviting God's presence and guidance.

Ice Breaker Question:

Share a time when you faced a challenging journey (physical or metaphorical) that required perseverance. What helped you get through it?

Key Takeaways:

1. The Christian life is a spiritual pilgrimage, requiring intentional effort and sacrifice.
2. God is our source of strength for the journey of faith.
3. God can transform our "valleys of weeping" into places of blessing and growth.
4. As believers, we should be growing "from strength to strength" in our faith.
5. Our church community plays a vital role in supporting each other through life's challenges.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that pilgrimage to Jerusalem wasn't just a routine duty but a special, sacred privilege. How can we cultivate a similar attitude towards our spiritual practices and church attendance?
2. Verse 5 talks about "the man whose strength is in You." What does it mean to find our strength in God? How have you experienced this in your own life?
3. The "valley of Baca" is described as a place of hardship that God transforms. Can you share an experience where God turned a difficult situation in your life into something positive?

4. The sermon emphasizes going "from strength to strength" rather than wavering between strength and weakness. What practical steps can we take to maintain spiritual consistency, especially during challenging times?

5. How does our church community reflect the idea of being "fellow travelers united in spiritual pilgrimage"? In what ways can we better support each other on this journey?

6. The sermon concludes by discussing our responsibility to transform our community. What are some specific ways our group can contribute to this mission?

Practical Applications:

1. Bible Study Practice: Choose a short passage from the Psalms and practice the Bible study method outlined in the sermon (pray, read, highlight/take notes, consult commentary). Share your insights at the next meeting.

2. Strength Journal: For the next week, keep a daily journal noting where you found strength in God and how you grew spiritually.

3. Community Support: Identify someone in your life who might be going through a "valley of Baca." Commit to encouraging and supporting them this week.

4. Ministry Involvement: Research the various ministries at Rivers Edge that address community needs. Consider how you might get involved in one of these efforts.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by praying for each other's spiritual journeys, asking God for strength, perseverance, and opportunities to be a blessing to others.