

God's Word Strengthens Us in Suffering

David's life rose from blessing to blessing, until he found himself running from King Saul pretending to be crazy and hiding in a cave. What David did in the cave defined who he became as King. (*1 Samuel 16-19*)

The Honesty in Psalm 119

"My eyes grow weary" (*v. 82, 123*)

"I have become like a wineskin dried by smoke" (*v. 83*)

"I am insignificant and despised" (*v. 141*)

"My eyes pour out streams of tears" (*v. 136*)

How To Meet the Lord in the Gap

1. Remember God's past blessings (*Psalm 119:26*)
2. Reframe your suffering (*Psalm 119:67, 71*)
3. Keep Obeying God's Commands (*Psalm 119:30, 32, 106, 58, 62, 116-117*)
4. Wait on the Lord (*Psalm 119:145-149*)
5. Rejoice in God's promises (*Psalm 119:49-50*)

David's story is a preview of the Greater Story, from David's cave to Christ's cross. Jesus used David's own words when he cried out on the cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" so that you and I would never be forsaken. (*Psalm 22:1*)

Small Group Discussion Questions:

Ice-Breaker: What is one ordinary thing you're looking forward to right now?

Was there anything from the sermon that you found encouraging, challenging, or thought-provoking?

Pastor Josh walked through David's life from 1) victories and blessings to 2) being on the run to 3) blessings again when he is crowned king. In between the times of victory and he's on the run for his life, how do you think you would have responded if you were him? (Emotionally, spiritually, physically)

Read Psalm 119:82-83, 123, 141. What do you make of this kind of raw emotional honesty, not just in this Psalm, but in many of the Psalms? (Or: Why would God put these kinds of intense emotions toward God in the Bible for us?)

Pastor Josh talked about "The Gap" - the struggle between where we are now and where we think God is taking us in the future. How have you wrestled with that uncertainty and tension in your life in the past?

Look at the 5 points underneath "How To Meet the Lord in the Gap" from the sermon outline, along with the verses in parentheses for reference. Which of these comes most naturally to you, and why? Which of these are the most difficult, and why?

The next time you go through tension and uncertainty in your life, what do you think the Lord wants you to remember from Psalm 119? (And how can we encourage each other during those times?)