

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking.

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was impactful to you and why?

Talking About the Message Start Sharing & . NOTE: Pastor may not cover all points in all services.

Open: There are times when our circumstances may challenge our faith and our hope wains. But God is faithful during these times, even if we are faithless. It's ok to be honest with God and to express our doubts and concerns to Him; He understands and is working "behind the scenes" in our lives. Yes, we can have hope when we don't feel hopeful.

1. Hope in God When you feel blocked from God's presence. 42:1-5

In v1 what does the word "pant" mean and how does it relate to David? **A.** It means to "intensely long after" and describes David's longing for God. **Point:** We want to get out of a bad situation, but God wants to be with us when we go through it. He must work in us so we have an intense longing for Him and to be in His presence.

What does our soul represent in people? **A.** It is the inner being of man; seat of emotions, thoughts, passions. **1Thes 5:23-24 & Heb 4:12-13** What was David longing for? **A.** God. What are other things we might long for and are they fulfilling/bring us fulfillment? **A.** People, places (travel), positions (status), possessions (materialism), etc.

What challenge did David face regarding experiencing God when he could not go to the Temple?

A. He felt distanced from God.

David looked to the mercy seat of the ark of the convenient. What do those of us under the New Covenant look to? **A.** Jesus seated in heaven at the right hand of God.

Questions for discussion: Do we put expectations on God and get upset with Him when He doesn't meet them? Do we at times, due to life's circumstances, feel distanced from God and shutout from His presence. Have we experienced intense grief during times of feeling separated from God? Has anyone ever asked you where your God is during times difficult circumstances?

Why is it important to know that we are more than our soul (body, mind & spirit)? **A.** Because we have the ability to speak to our soul while experiencing difficult circumstances.

What does it mean to be "cast down?" **A.** To be pressed down and crushed. **2Cor 1:8**

What does it mean to be "disquieted?" **A.** To be in great commotion or tumult within.

How can we stop being disquieted? **A.** Hope in God. This is not wishful thinking, but hope placed upon our reliable, loving God. **Point:** Hope in someone's promise is only as good as the faithfulness (ability) of the person who gave the promise.

2. Hope in God When you feel overwhelmed and forgotten. 42:6-11

When seeking God, do we have to deny the reality of our circumstances? **A.** No. We can be honest with God and have true hope. We are to have courage in the face of our circumstances.

Where are three areas of God's faithfulness we can look to? **A.** In the valleys of life – in difficult times; on the highest mountains – places of great victory; in "smallness" – the little victories of day-to-day mercies.

V7 – Accept that situations in life will bring disorientation & feelings of being overwhelmed. But during these times, what does God send? **A.** When difficulties come in waves, (v8) God will send us His loving kindness. What are we encouraged to do in v11? **A.** Hope in God & praise Him.

3. Hope in God When you feel unjustly accused. 43:1-5

Rather than try to vindicate himself, what did David do (v1)? **A.** He asked God to vindicate (to clear someone of blame or suspicion) him. **Proverbs 20:22**

What are two things we can ask God to send us when we feel like we are oppressed (v3)? **A.** His light, that we may clearly see from God's perspective, and His truth, which will bring us to the place of joy & praise.

LIFEgroups

talk it over | week 11

discussion | study

O My Soul Hope in God

Psalm 42 & 43

Pastor Bob Claycamp