

# psalms

living in selah

A NEWSTORY CHURCH SERIES



part 2, Psalm 27

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REMINDER: These questions are intended to spark meaningful conversation, not exhaustive coverage. The goal is connection, not completion. So feel free to spend extended time on just one or two questions that resonate with the group. Aim for heartfelt connection & personal application. Finally, trust the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion in the areas most needed by your group and enjoy!

Ice-Breaker: Share about a time when you felt the tension of your relatively comfortable daily routine with an overwhelming but somewhat distant occurrence (*natural disasters, ICE raids, wars, etc.*). How did you process that disconnect?

- 1) Compare Psalm 27:1-3 with Jesus' words in John 16:33. How do both passages address living with confidence amid chaos.
- 2) Describe a time when a more abstract social issue suddenly became personal and real for you. How did that "proximity shock" change your perspective or actions? Read Luke 10:25-37 (the Good Samaritan) alongside Psalm 27:5-6. How do both passages suggest we should respond when we encounter suffering "on our way to lunch"?
- 3) Henri Nouwen wrote, "The real 'work' of prayer is to become silent and listen to the voice that says good things about me." How might "dwelling in God's house" (v.4) practically reshape how we process difficult news?
- 4) Our hearts are idol-making factories. What "good things" in your life are you most tempted to turn into "ultimate things" when anxiety hits? John Calvin wrote, "Our hearts are idol factories, but they are also assurance factories—they manufacture both false gods and false guilt." How can we distinguish between conviction from God and condemnation from the enemy?
- 5) Describe a moment when you felt guilty about your safety, comfort, or opportunities while others suffered. How did that guilt affect your actions? Then take a look at Esther 4:14 alongside Psalm 27:5. How do both Mordecai's challenge to Esther ("for such a time as this") and David's confidence in God's protection reframe privilege as responsibility?
- 6) When have you felt so overwhelmed by the scale of world problems that you ended up doing nothing? What broke you out of that paralysis (or what might)? Then compare Jesus' response to overwhelming need in Matthew 9:36-38 (seeing crowds, feeling compassion, but focusing on prayer for workers) with David's approach in Psalm 27:7-8. How do both prioritize seeking God's face before action?
- 7) Richard Foster wrote, "In contemporary society our Adversary majors in three things: noise, hurry, and crowds." How might the discipline of "active waiting" as found in the end of Psalm 27 counter these forces in your life?
- 8) What would change about your prayer life, your daily rhythms, and your response to crisis if you truly believed God Himself was your greatest treasure?
- 9) Shane Claiborne observed, "We can admire and worship Jesus without doing what he did. We can applaud what he preached and stood for without caring about the same things." What would it look like to move from admiration to imitation?
- 10) Based on this study, what is one specific way you will practice "dwelling in God's house" this week while engaging (not avoiding) the realities of our broken world?



Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)