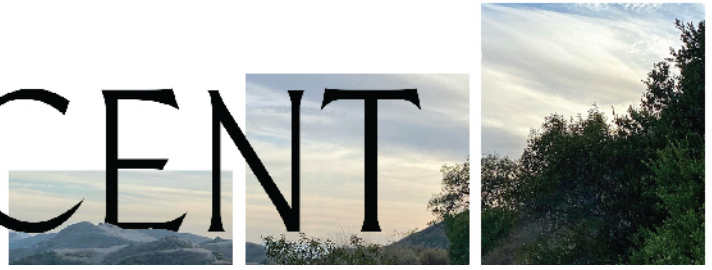


# SONGS OF ASCENT



## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

**Series:** Songs of Ascent: Discipleship in a Changing World  
Psalm 126

Part 6 – Pandemic Joy  
Pastor Tom Kang

1) Ice Breaker: Anyone else feeling “pandemic fine”?

**Pinned Tweet**

**Sarah Smith**   
@sarahesmith23

**pandemic fine** — *noun* — a state of being in which you are employed and healthy during a pandemic but you're also tired and depressed and feel like trash all the time

12:46 PM · Jan 28, 2021 · Twitter Web App

41K Retweets 2,634 Quote Tweets 203.6K Likes

SONGS OF ASCENT

- 2) Read Psalm 126 and identify what stood out to you the most.
- 3) Discuss the following examples of both specific and general Chiastic Structures:

**PAST**

A - When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we **were like** those who dreamed.

B - Our mouths **were filled** with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

C - Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD **has done** great things for them.”

**PRESENT**

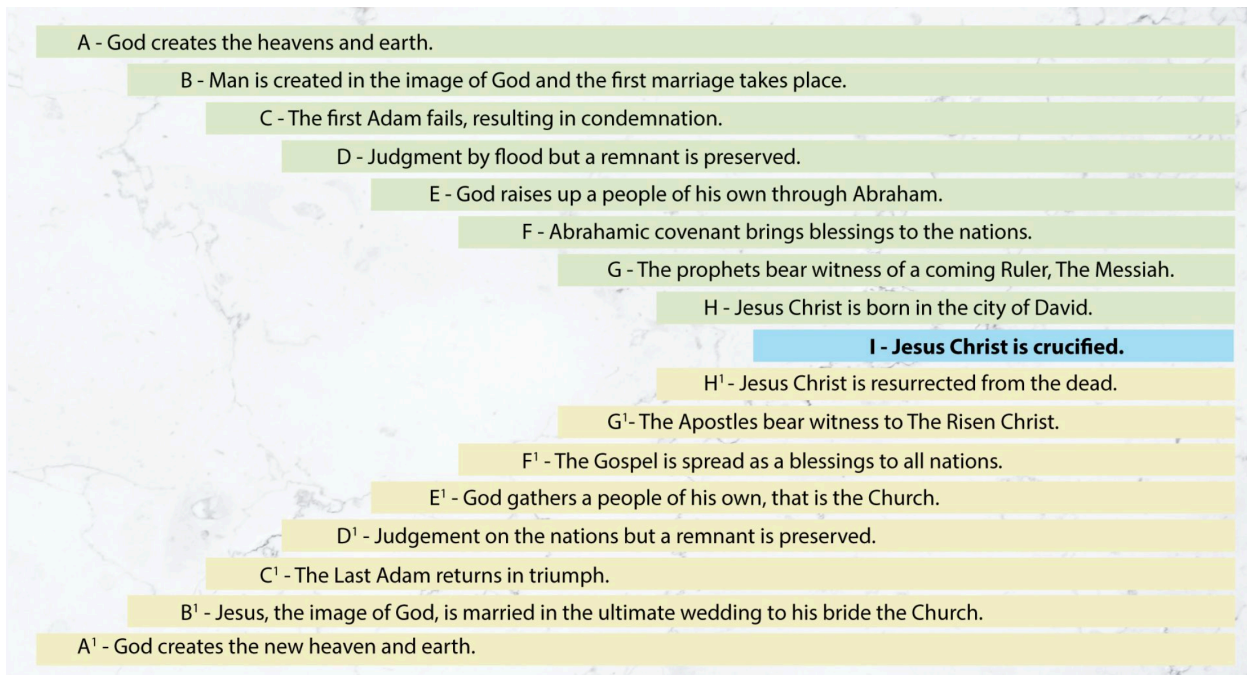
D - The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

C<sup>1</sup> - **Restore** our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.

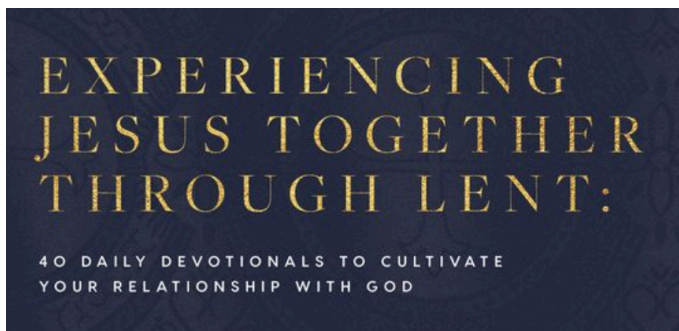
**FUTURE**

B<sup>1</sup> - Those who sow with tears **will reap** with songs of joy.

A<sup>1</sup> - Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, **will return** with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.



- 4) Read Exodus 14:21-31. Would you agree that the Israelites were a people with a truly storied past, filled with many dramatic events like the one you just read? If so, how does that contextual understanding help you interpret Psalm 126:2b?
- 5) What is a “Red Sea Moment” for you? How might God’s deliverance of you in the PAST affect your PRESENT state of joy?
- 6) Pastor Tom mentioned that the southern desert of Judah was well-known for its incredibly dry seasons as well as their sudden flush floods. How does that help your understanding of Psalm 126:4? Is there an area of your life where you need a FUTURE “flash flood” restoration as well?
- 7) Psalm 126:5,6 speak of a FUTURE joy which often accompanies tears and weeping. Specifically discuss how this joy is NOT a simple placation of pain (with a token song of joy) but how, rather, there is a much deeper dynamic at work.
- 8) Do you know people in your own life that need this sort of restoration? Take time now to pray for them.



**Challenge: LENT DEVOTIONAL**

Lent is the Christian season (40 days) of spiritual preparation before Easter. This is a great season to set aside time for self-examination and reflection on Jesus – to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection. We are using this Bible app plan. Please join the rest of the church individually or with your small group to experience Jesus together through Lent. For more info, [newstorychurch.com/lent](http://newstorychurch.com/lent).