

Small Group Study Spring Semester Week Eleven

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) If you were at a party, and the host forced you to perform karaoke for everyone, which song would you sing?
- b) Have you watched the "Some Good News" show online that Cam mentioned on Sunday? If yes, what is one of your favourite stories that they've shared? If not, what's one YouTube video that makes you happy whenever you watch it?

Passage and Discussion

Read Psalm 100

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) Cam began his sermon by sharing that, for many of us, these past few months have been difficult for many of us. How would you describe the last few months? Has it been a difficult season for you, or has it been a good season?
- c) In Psalm 100, we are reminded that we are invited to worship God, regardless of our circumstances. What does it mean to you to worship God in all seasons in your life? How do you think that we grow in our ability to worship God, even when we don't feel like it?
- d) On Sunday, Cam taught that "our feelings do not dictate whether or not God should be praised". How do you respond to this statement? Does this encourage you in your relationship with God, or do you find it frustrating to worship God in the midst of difficult seasons?
- e) Cam mentioned that, in this Psalm, worship is a command. In other words, worshiping God is not optional. What are a few of your favourite ways to worship God? Do you connect with Him in musical worship, or do you have a different way you prefer to worship God?
- f) Read **Acts 16:16-34**. How does this story encourage you to worship God in all circumstances? How do you think you would have responded, if you were in the place of Paul or Silas?
- g) As a group, take a few minutes to discuss the verbs of thanksgiving (and the accompanying verses) that we see in this Psalm. As a group, discuss what it means to worship God in these ways, and a few practical ways that we can do them in our everyday lives:
 - i) "Shout for joy" (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*)

- ii) "Worship with gladness" (*Matthew 13:44*)
- iii) "Come before Him" (*Jeremiah 23:23-24*)
- iv) "Know that the Lord is God" (*Romans 8:6*)
- v) "Enter His gates"
- vi) "Give thanks (confess)" (*1 John:8-9*)
- vii) "Praise His name"

- h) The nouns and pronouns in Psalm 100 remind us that this passage is all about God, not about us. What are a few ways that we can mistakenly make worship about us? How can we avoid doing that, both as individuals and as a church community?
- i) In the final verse in our passage, we are reminded that "His faithfulness continues in all generations". What are a few examples of God's faithfulness to generations in your past? What are a few stories of times God was faithful to your parents, gran-parents, great-grandparents, etc.?
- j) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging? Did you learn anything about the Psalms that you didn't know before?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) This week, continue reading through the Psalms! Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring a new Psalm each week, so begin reading them to have them in your mind as we learn them together as a church community.
- b) This week, take a few minutes to write down a few things for which you're thankful. This could be your family, your community, or your relationship with God. Each day, take time to "enter His gates with thanksgiving", and thank Him for being who He is, despite our circumstances.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to 'check-in' about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) As a group, before you bring any prayer requests, "worship the Lord with gladness". Spend a few minutes praising/thanking God for who He is.