

Small Group Study Summer Semester Week Six

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) What is one of your favourite classic novels of all-time? Can you remember a book that you had to read in high school - did you like it at the time? Has your opinion on it changed now?
- b) What is one unique or interesting fact about your family tree/heritage? Have you spent a lot of time trying to learn about your family tree/heritage?

Passage and Discussion

Read Psalm 136

- 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) On Sunday, Cam taught that the pattern found in the Old Testament is "God's faithfulness, people's forgetfulness". What are a few examples from Scripture of this pattern? How do you think this cycle continues in our own lives today?
- c) On Sunday, we were reminded that we sometimes forget God's goodness and faithfulness towards us if He doesn't answer our prayers how we want Him to. If you feel comfortable sharing, tell us about a time in your life where God answered your prayers in a way you didn't expect. How did this affect your ability to trust in His goodness and faithfulness?
- d) This Psalm teaches us about God's character; to remember who He is. On Sunday, we learned that God is good, and that He is primary. How do we keep God first in our own lives? What does it mean to put Him above everything else in our lives?
- e) In this Psalm, the Psalmist remembers who God is, and celebrates times in the past where God worked on behalf of His people in powerful ways. Which Biblical story do you find most encouraging? What do you find encouraging about this story?
- f) **Read Exodus 14.** The Psalmist references this story in his Psalm - what does this chapter tell us about God's faithfulness towards His people? Which part stands out to you? How would you apply verse 14 ("The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still") to your own life?
- g) How does remembering past stories of God's faithfulness help us trust Him today? How have you found encouragement from remembering the past (whether the Bible or your own)? If you were to add your own "verses" to this Psalm, which stories from your life would you celebrate?

- h) On Sunday, Cam pointed out that the Psalmist is remembering stories that He wasn't present for. What are a few examples of God's faithfulness in your family that are worth celebrating?
- i) In this Psalm, the Psalmist repeats "His love endures forever" twenty-six times. Why do you think the Psalmist does this? Why is it so important for us to be reminded of God's love for us?
- j) How often do our prayers and worship reflect thankfulness to God? Why do you think we often move straight to our requests and forget the blessings that God has poured out upon us?
- k) As a Small Group, how can we encourage each other towards remembering and giving thanks to God? How can we celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness towards us?
- l) 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) Do this week's homework from the platform: (i) share your story with your family and (ii) share your story with your church. Set-up a time to share with your family, and contact the church to share your story.
- b) In verses 1-3, we are reminded three times to give thanks to God. Each day this week, begin your day by spending time expressing thankfulness towards Him. Thank Him for His faithfulness in the past, and thank Him for how He continues to walk with you today.

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, spend a few minutes sharing your own "verses" of celebration - share about times in the past where God was faithful in your own life. Thank Him for His everlasting love and faithfulness towards us, as His children.