

## Small Group Study Spring 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)

- 1) What is one of your favourite works of art? This could be a painting, book, piece of music, film, etc. What do you love about this work of art?
- 2) As group sizes continue to increase in Manitoba (25 indoors, 50 outdoors), will this change anything in your everyday life? Is there a particular gathering that you are excited about?

### Passage and Discussion

*Read Psalm 1*

- 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) In this Psalm, there is a dichotomy set up between those who are blessed and those who are not. As you read through the Psalm, what does 'blessing' look like, according to this passage? What does the future hold for the blessed? What does the future hold for those who are not?
- c) The Psalm starts by indicating that some 'walk in step with the wicked', 'stand in the way that sinners take', and 'sit in the company of mockers'. What do you think is meant by these statements? What does this look like today?
- d) The 'hinge-point' of this Psalm, as pointed out on Sunday, is the Word of God, and how one feels about it. Why is it so important that God's people take His Word so seriously? What does it mean to take God's Word seriously?
- e) Verse 3 shares a beautiful illustration of a tree. Discuss the characteristics of this tree and how delighting in the Lord allows one to be like this. How does *not* delighting in God's Word produce what we read in verses 4-5?
- f) Many of us have walked through seasons when we feel like we cannot be truly honest with God. Share about a season that you have walked through when you felt this way. Why was it difficult to be honest with God during this season?
- g) For some people, being "honest to God" about our emotions comes naturally, but it can be difficult for others. Do you find it easy or hard to be fully honest in your relationship with God, especially if you are experiencing anger, fear, sadness, etc.?

- h) On Sunday, Cam said that “if there is one place where we can be truly honest, it should be with God and with God’s people”. In your own life, do you find it difficult to be honest with your church community about what you are walking through? How have past experiences influenced your ability to be vulnerable with His people?
- i) Do you have a favourite Psalm? Is there a Psalm that has been meaningful to you during a particular season in your life? Share about this Psalm, and what you love about it.
- j) The Book of Psalms is a ‘song book’; a collection of songs, prayers, poems, and lyrics which help us to be honest with God in our personal relationships with Him. What is one metaphor or image or verse in the Psalms that you find particularly helpful as you express yourself to Him?
- k) Cam taught on Sunday that, as we read through the words of Psalms, we do not simply read the words of someone else - they become ‘our words’. What are a few practical ways that we can make the words of the Psalms ‘our words’?
- 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) This week, begin 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) The Psalms are poetry and music that were created to help us connect with God! This week, if you are artistically-inclined, try creating your own work of art where you are able to be “honest to God” - whether it’s a painting, poem, song, etc.

### **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) Pray that each person in your group would grow closer in their personal relationship with God during this season, especially as we explore the Psalms together as a church community.