

Small Group Study Spring Semester Week Nine

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 resource (book, podcast, online series, etc.) that you have found useful in your spiritual growth during this season of your life?
- 2) What is your favourite country that you've ever visited? What did you like most about that country (food, culture, etc.)?

Passage and Discussion

Read Psalm 2

- 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, Steve told us a story of when he was frustrated with someone's leadership, until he learned that this person's strong leadership was meant to protect them. Have you ever struggled under someone else's leadership? Looking back, are you able to see why the leader was leading in that way?
- c) As a group, take a few minutes to identify where each of you are in positions of leadership in your lives. This could be at work, in the church, in your family, in the community, etc. What are a few practical ways that we, as leaders, can continually submit ourselves to God?
- d) Although we are invited to have a personal relationship with 'our Father', leaders are reminded (in verse 11) that they are to serve God "with fear". What does it mean to you to serve God "with fear"? How should this fear of God affect the way that we live our everyday lives, especially if we are in positions of authority?
- e) In this passage, we are reminded that, while we have rulers on earth ("kings of the earth"), we are meant to put our trust primarily in God. **Read Romans 13:1-5**. How do we find a good balance between submitting to God's authority, but also submitting to our leaders (political, church, work, etc.) on earth?
- f) On Sunday, Steve taught about the difference between being loving and being nice. How would you define each of these two words? What's the difference between being loving and being nice? For parents in your group, how does this difference affect your parenting, especially regarding disciplining your children?
- g) **Read Matthew 3:13-17**. In this passage, God the Father quotes Psalm 2, where He declares that Jesus is His Son. Have you thought about Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises in the Old Testament? How does this understanding of Scripture help you trust the Bible more?

- h) Though we know that the commands that God gives us are meant for our good, it can sometimes be difficult to trust Him. Can you think of a time in your life when you found it difficult to obey God's commands? Looking back, were you able to see how those commands were for your good?
- i) On Sunday, Steve taught that "God pours wrath on that which prevents blessing for us". How does this statement help you understand God's discipline in our lives? Does it make it easier to submit to Him, even if we don't understand why in the moment?
- j) In verse 7, we are reminded that we are children of God; that God is truly 'our Father'. How should this kind of relationship change the way that we approach God in our personal relationships with Him?
- k) On Sunday, Steve taught that we are invited to "find refuge" in God. What does it mean to you to "find refuge" in your relationship with God? What are a few practical ways that we can do that?
- 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, 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, find practical ways to bless leaders in your life. You could send them an e-mail or letter with words of encouragement, a small gift card to a coffee shop, etc. Make sure that they know you are praying for them!

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, take time to pray for leaders in your life. You could pray for our church leadership, for our political leaders, etc. Pray for wisdom and peace in their lives.