

How Long O' Lord

Psalm 13

1. Have you ever gone through a difficult time and felt like God had forgotten you? Briefly share with the group this experience. As you reflect on that trial today, what are some of the things you remember now that show you that God hadn't forgotten you?
2. Read James 1:2-4. According to these verses what is a major purpose of the trials in our lives?
3. Do you think that your faith or character would be as strong as it is today if you didn't ever experience trials in your life? How has God made you more like Christ and strengthened your faith through difficult times in your life?
4. Do you think it is OK to talk to God the way David did in verses 1-2 (e.g. telling God that you thing He has forgotten about you, that He is hiding from you, and that you are filled with sorrow)? Why or why not?
5. How should we pour out our feelings/emotions to God?
6. Many times our prayers only focus on our hardship and our own well being. While we need to pray for these things, what should we also ask God for in times of prayer during difficult times?
7. What are some ways that you can continue to glorify God in the midst of very difficult situations? Be specific and share if you have a specific story to share of how you have or someone else has glorified God in difficult times.
8. How did God ultimately demonstrate His love for you? Given the fact that God was willing to send His only Son to die for you, don't you think that He will all the more help you in your time of need in difficult times? Why or why not?
9. Can you still rejoice and praise God in difficult times even if God chooses to make the trial go on for the rest of your life or doesn't answer your prayer according to your request (e.g. marriage of parents still fails, loved one dies, someone continues to reject God)? Why or why not?
10. In light of the truth that we can most glorify God when we suffer hardship, how do you intend on responding to life's trials in the future?