

# Life Group STUDY GUIDE

## What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP).
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

## PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER

### SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

**NOTE to the Life Group Leader:** This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

## OPEN IN PRAYER

## STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

## MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

## FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

## SUMMER OF PSALMS

Psalms 73: "Before you Throw in the Towel"

August 20, 2017

### A Psalm of Asaph.

*"Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure. But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. They seem to live such painless lives;*

*their bodies are so healthy and strong. They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else."* Psalm 73:1-5 (NLT)

*"They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty. These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for! They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others. They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth. And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words. "What does God know?" they ask. "Does the Most High even know what's happening?" Look at these wicked people—enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply."* Psalm 73:6-12 (NLT)

His problem is not so much, "why do bad things happen to good people?"  
It's more discouragement around, "why do good things happen to bad people?"

### So when you're thinking about giving up:

- Focusing on others will discourage you
- Focusing on yourself will disappoint you

*"Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain."*

Psalm 73:13-14 (NLT)

*"If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people. So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked."*

Psalm 73:15-17 (NLT)

- Focusing on God will:
  - Give you an eternal perspective

*"Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. When you arise, O*

*Lord, you will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning.”*  
Psalm 73:18-20 (NLT)

- Shine light on the current state of your soul

*“Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you.”*  
Psalm 73:21-22 (NLT)

*“Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.”* Psalm 73:23-26 (NLT)

- Show you the true value of God in your life
- Shows you what happens to those who walk away from God

*“Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you.”*  
Psalm 73:27 (NLT)

*“But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.”*  
Psalm 73:28 (NLT)