

DISCUSSION GUIDE (July 30, 2023)

Joe Boerman

Message: *When Life Doesn't Seem Fair* (series: *Wise Up*)

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Psalm 73

Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.

For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.

Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.

Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.

And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

All in vain have I kept my heart clean, and washed my hands in innocence.

For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.

If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into
the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.

How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!

Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as
phantoms.

When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant;

I was like a beast toward you. Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- The Perplexing Problem (verses 2,3)
- The Prosperous Wicked (verses 4-14)
- The Profound Discovery (verses 17-28)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time in your life when life did not seem fair, especially as it relates to a comparison with people who were not good or godly.

2. From your knowledge of the Old Testament, recount a time when the people of Israel felt that God was being unfair to them.

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3. Asaph came to see a much larger picture: the fate of the godless in eternity. It helped him. Does knowing that ever help you? How?

4. Read the entire Psalm aloud two times, each time in a different translation. Spend some time discussing how the chapter ends, and then pray aloud through the concluding verses.

Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

Thank You, God, for Your goodness in my life, not just now, but for all eternity. Help me to see all of life as You do. Give me a heart of gratitude, even when life seems unfair. Amen.