



Faith Community Church
Presence
(Psalms, Part 5)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer: Open by admitting our struggle of comparison. Ask for God to redirect our focus.

Icebreaker: What is your autopilot go-to phrase when someone asks 'How are you?' — and what is the funniest or most awkward time you said it when things were *not* okay?

Key Points

1. **The Danger of the Mask:** True spiritual healing begins when we stop pretending we have it all together and bring our actual struggles, doubts, and slipping into the open.
2. **The Trap of the Horizontal Gaze:** Comparing our lives horizontally to the superficial snapshots of others will always breed bitterness, envy, and spiritual exhaustion.
3. **The Sanctuary Pivot:** We cannot intellectually argue or analyze our way out of a cynical heart; we must actively step out of human opinion and enter the life-giving presence of God.
4. **The Ultimate Prize:** The greatest inheritance of the Christian life is not a change of circumstances or worldly success, but the constant, eternal presence of God Himself.

Discussion Questions

1. Did you build a daily Scripture habit, surrender a "wave", audit your successes, or stack stones? Tell us about it!
2. Asaph starts Psalm 73 with a polished theology response ("*Truly God is good...*") but immediately follows it with his raw reality ("*...my feet had almost slipped*"). Why do we find it so difficult to share our "slipping feet" with others in the church, and how can we build a culture where we can be that honest? (Ephesians 4:25, Philippians 2:1-4)
3. Looking horizontally at the world, it often looks like those who ignore God are winning, thriving, and "always at ease." When have you found yourself looking at someone else's "snapshot" and feeling like living a holy life wasn't worth the effort? (Malachi 3:13-18)
4. In verse 16, Asaph describes trying to understand this comparison on his own as a "wearisome task" (painful, empty labor). What does trying to solve a spiritual heart issue with tired, human logic look like in your daily life? (Ecc 8:17, Rom 11:33)

5. Everything shifts in verse 17 with the word *"until."* What does it practically look like for you to "go into the sanctuary of God" when you are in the middle of a busy, exhausting week? (Isaiah 55:6-11)

6. When Asaph entered God's presence, he realized the wicked were actually standing on "slippery places" (slick ice). How does looking at worldly success through the lens of eternity change how you view—and pray for—the people around you who don't know Jesus? (Exodus 32:11-12)

7. Even when Asaph was bitter and acting like a "senseless animal," God did not let go of his hand (*"Nevertheless, I am continually with you..."*). How does God's "nevertheless grace" comfort you in seasons when your own faith feels weak? (Romans 5:6-8)

8. Asaph concludes that God is his "portion" (*cheleq*—inheritance/security) forever. In a culture driven by acquiring more, how can we cultivate a heart that is truly satisfied with God Himself as the ultimate prize? (Hebrews 13:5)

Practical Applications

1. **Take Off the Mask (The 24-Hour Honesty Challenge):** Commit to a day of "no lobby answers." The next time a trusted friend, spouse, or group member asks how you are doing, share one genuine area where your feet feel like they are slipping, rather than giving a polished, default response.

2. **Practice the "Until" Shift:** When you catch yourself spiraling into comparison, worry, or envy while scrolling through social media or looking around you, stop immediately. Close the screen, step away, and spend 5 minutes in prayer or reading Scripture to intentionally reset your focus from the horizontal to the vertical.

3. **Identify Your "Portion" Priorities:** Take a piece of paper and write down the top three things you look to for security, comfort, or validation (e.g., career, bank account, social status). Pray over that list, hand those things back to God, and declare out loud: *"The Lord is my portion; He is enough for me."*

Closing Prayer: Father, teach us to be honest with You and our fellow Christ-followers. Help us to walk with eternity in our eyes and You as the prize. In Jesus' Name.