

# PSALMS

songs for all of life

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### WAIT FOR IT: PSALM 57

#### Read the Text

#### Psalm 57

<sup>1</sup> Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,  
for in you my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,  
till the storms of destruction pass by.

<sup>2</sup> I cry out to God Most High,  
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

<sup>3</sup> He will send from heaven and save me;  
he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah*  
God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

<sup>4</sup> My soul is in the midst of lions;  
I lie down amid fiery beasts—  
the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows,  
whose tongues are sharp swords.

<sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let your glory be over all the earth!

<sup>6</sup> They set a net for my steps;  
my soul was bowed down.  
They dug a pit in my way,  
but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*

<sup>7</sup> My heart is steadfast, O God,  
my heart is steadfast!  
I will sing and make melody!

- 8 Awake, my glory!<sup>[b]</sup>  
Awake, O harp and lyre!  
I will awake the dawn!
- 9 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;  
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
- 10 For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!  
Let your glory be over all the earth!

### Main Point

What do you do when your life takes an unexpected negative turn? Oftentimes, when things go wrong, we try to take matters into our own hands because we have a false sense of control over our lives. This is where Satan loves to meet us and fill our minds with gospel distortions. We see this battle in the life of David and how he resists the temptation to kill his enemy because he knows and desires to follow God's commands instead. **David knows that you never achieve God's purposes by breaking God's commands. Never.** That's hard to live out though! Especially when the easiest path will seemingly give us what we want!

Sometimes the harder path is also the right one. **When the right path is also the hard one, that is God inviting us to trust in Him and wait on His timing.** This is the example we see from David. He waits on the Lord.

What does this waiting look like though? It's not a passive slothful experience. Rather, it's very active and attentive. During the waiting process, God is doing a good work in us. He's building us, pruning us, growing us in His likeness. **We can wait on God with great expectation and confidence in our sanctification.** If we're a Christian, we know who God is and we can trust that He will do whatever He says He'll do. We see in this Psalm that God has a sovereign purpose – even if we don't quite yet understand

that purpose. We see His steadfast love and that's it's never changing. And we also see David's steadfast confidence in God. David sees God's steadfastness towards him which gives him confidence to be steadfast towards God. This doesn't just happen though! And it doesn't happen by us white-knuckling ourselves to a place of trust. We develop steadfast faith because God first accepted us. Assurance of God's acceptance enables us to obey His commands.

### **Reflect Together**

- 1. *Who is God?*** Even through the darkest of times, God has a purpose and His love never ends. Do you believe this? Is your belief in this ever shaken? How can you remind yourself of this truth?
- 2. *What has He done?*** When is a time that you were tempted to control a situation? What did you do? Have you had a time when you fought that temptation and trusted in God's plan and waited on Him?
- 3. *Who are you?*** How do you typically respond when a life circumstance takes a turn for the worst? Did you resonate at all with rationalized revenge (paying evil with evil), stolen pleasures (you find escape in things other than God), or cowardly compromise (taking control of the situation to get what you want however you want)?
- 4. *What are you to do?*** How do you want to grow in trusting and abiding in God's word? What is perhaps a longer and less comfortable road you need to take in order to do so?

### **Abide Together**

What are you waiting on right now? It can be big or small – what are you waiting on God to deliver to you right now? Pray for one another that you'd wait on Him and not fall into the trap of trying to control or usurp God's plan. Speak truth to one another about God's goodness, perfect timing, and bigger plan.