



FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH | LIFE NOTES

PSALM 27: WEEK 2

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Community Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. The goal of your time is not to answer every question, but to facilitate meaningful and life giving conversation. Some questions might connect with your group more than others, so please focus on the ones pertinent to your group.

SYNOPSIS OF SERIES

It seems like every day there are more reasons to fear. ISIS. Our next president. Religious liberty issues. Racial divides. Yet, in the middle of the chaos, we are commanded to trust Jesus. **To say yes to his plan and purposes.** To not put our hope in the world or its leaders, but to put our hope in him. Jesus himself said things like: Fear not...Be anxious for nothing... Psalm 27 was written by David, a man who had plenty of reason to fear. Yet, in the midst of his fear, he chose to press into God. He sought God's presence as his primary pursuit.

GETTING STARTED

This psalm is ascribed to David, evidently written in a time of danger. It may have been prompted by the help provided by Ahimelech the priest, and the opposition of Doeg the Edomite, who saw David at the tabernacle and later reported him to Saul (cf. 1Sa 21:1-10; 22:9). This was also a time when David sought protection for his parents (cf. 1 Sam 22:3) which may have left David feeling abandoned. The first part of the psalm expresses his confident trust in the LORD for blessings received in the past, and his desire to dwell in the house of the LORD who will protect him in the future (1-6). In the second part David offers an anxious plea for God's mercy and deliverance from his enemies (7-10). It ends with a confession that he would have lost heart without faith in God's goodness, and an exhortation to wait on the Lord for strength and courage of heart (11-14).

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Psalm 27:7-10

⁷Hear, O Lord, *when* I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. ⁸*When You said, "Seek My face,"* My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek." ⁹Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. ¹⁰When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.

How does this passage relate to the previous passage (Psalm 27:1-6)?

Can you sympathize with David's frustration in this passage? Please explain.

Have you ever felt like God has forsaken you and isn't answering your prayers? How did you respond?

How are you able to maintain trust in God during those times when He appears to be silent?

Read Psalm 27:11-14

¹¹Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. ¹²Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. ¹³*I would have lost heart,* unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. ¹⁴Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!

What difficulties was David experiencing in these verses?

What prevented David from losing heart?

Describe a time in your life in which God brought about deliverance in His own timing?

Why do you find it difficult to wait for the Lord in times when you desire immediate deliverance from some present difficulty?

Belief in the Lord's "goodness" caused David to patiently wait for the Lord even when times were difficult. How has the Lord's goodness helped you to patiently wait for the Lord in similar situations?

MOVING FORWARD

On Sunday, Kyle gave us 5 things to do while we wait on God. Can you remember any or all of them?

1. Cry out to God while you wait. – If you are in a time of waiting, try reading the Psalms and as you resonate with the psalmists' cries to God, cry out to him about your own situation.

2. Seek God's face while you wait. – Make a plan to enable you to be still. Find a space, time to be solitary and silent to spend time just with God. This is way easier said than done in our distracting world.

3. Remember who God is while you wait. – Celebrate God's faithfulness in the past in your life. Read His Word to remember God's faithfulness to generations past. Meditate on the attributes of God – God is my...

4. Stay on God's path while you wait. – Know God's Word – it is your guide. Reach out to others for support and accountability. Limit your choices for whatever your temptations are that are heightened when you're struggling or waiting on God.

5. Place your hope in God's goodness while you wait. – God is good. Place your hope in the fact that you will see his goodness. Despair will rob you of joy – place your hope and trust in God who does not change like the shifting wind.

Which of these resonate with you the most?

How can you begin to put these things into practice as you wait?