



FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH | LIFE NOTES

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.

PSALM 27: WEEK 1

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 27:1-6

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. ⁴ One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. ⁵ For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. ⁶ Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

What does David mean when he says “the Lord is my light, my salvation, and my stronghold?”

Why are these so important to David?

What do these 3 things tell us about who God is and how does this change David's perspective of what he is going through?

What was the "one thing" that David desired?

⁴One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

How would you describe what David writes in v.4 in your own words?

Look at v. 5. What kind of security did David experience from the Lord?

MOVING FORWARD

What are the greatest sources of fear in your life?

How do you typically deal with your fears?

How does this passage give you confidence in the Lord in your fears?

Commit as a group to writing down Psalm 27 in a journal 3 times this week. Ask the Lord to cement these words in your minds and hearts.

PRAY