

PSALMS OF SUMMER



Pastor Dave Patterson
Part 4

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[(portions of) Psalm 31]

Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am in distress.

Tears blur my eyes.

My body and soul are withering away.

I am dying from grief;

my years are shortened by sadness.

Sin has drained my strength;

I am wasting away from within.

*I am scorned by all my enemies
and despised by my neighbors—*

even my friends are afraid to come near me.

*When they see me on the street,
they run the other way.
I am ignored as if I were dead,
Forgotten like a shattered clay pot....*

[Psalm 13]

*How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul and
with sorrow in my heart , How long will my enemy have the upper hand?*

[Psalm 69]

*“The waters have come up to my neck. I sink in the miry depths,
where there is no foothold.
I am worn out calling for help;
my throat is parched.”*

[Psalm 102]

*“My heart is sick, withered like grass,
and I have lost my appetite”*

[Psalm 88]

*I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.*

[Psalm 22]

*Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer.
Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief.*

[Psalm 142]

*I pour out my complaints **before him** and **tell him** all my troubles.*

When not to complain:

1. When the person you are complaining to does not have the power to change the situation
2. When the complaint is not accompanied with a clear request for change

3. When the complaint does not end in praise for God's ability to intervene

[(portions of) Psalm 31]

"...But I am trusting you, O LORD, saying, "You are my God! My future is in your hands...."

How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.

You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.

You hide them in the shelter of your presence.

3 things David did:

1. **He Refocused** (from the problem to the greatness of God)
2. **He Remembered** (God's faithfulness throughout his life)
3. **He Released** (the song of praise)

[Psalm 22:3]

"You inhabit the praises of Israel" (KJV)

"You make Your home on the praises of Israel." (Voice)

"You are Holy, enthroned upon the praises of Israel" (NKJV)

[Lamentations 3:21-23]

Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If your life was a blues song what would the title be?

2. Is there a complaint on your voice more often than not? Who do you complain to? Have you opened your heart and given your complaint to the one who can actually do something about it? Why should we give our complaints to God?
3. How can we turn our complaints into praise? Why is this an important step to take?
4. Regardless of your current circumstances recall and declare Gods faithfulness. Spend sometime sharing with each other the times God came through on your behalf.
5. Begin to praise God for His love, his mercies His great faithfulness. Ask Him to restore hope in the lives of those who are singing the blues.