

GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Date:
5th March 2017

Title:
Discipleship in Happiness

Passage:

Psalm 30

Speaker:

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Welcome to this week's GG Briefing Notes! Thanks for leading this discussion in your group. Do pray that God uses it to help everyone in your group become more like Jesus.

We have suggested below some things to aim for in your discussion. Please don't just read this sheet out to the group! Decide before you start how you'll work towards each aim. Which of our questions will you use (you may not need all of them) – or can you think of better ones? What kind of answers will you be hoping to get from each question?

As you ask questions, keep the aim in mind, and only give hints if you have to. Don't forget to make sure everyone in the group is involved.

1

Aim

To reflect on our discipleship in good times and bad.

Some Possible Questions

What is your attitude towards God when things in life are going badly?

What is your attitude towards God when things in life are going really well?

What dangers are there for our relationship with God when things are going well?

2

Aim

To familiarise ourselves with Psalm 30.

Some Possible Questions

Ask someone to read Psalm 30.

This is a Psalm of thanksgiving and testimony for God's rescue in someone's life. What had gone wrong in the psalmist's life that they needed rescuing from?

Does v5 mean that bad things happen to us when God is angry with us and good things when He is pleased with us?

Hints

The psalmist had been sick (v2), and almost died (v3).

Notice that in v6-10 the psalmist is remembering what happened *before* God healed them, and v1-5 & v11-12 are their response now that they have been healed.

This psalm was written at a time (under a covenant) when physical wellbeing *was* a result of a right relationship with God (Deuteronomy 28 v1-6 & v15-19). That covenant has now ended (Hebrews 8 v6-13), so we can't assume that good and bad circumstances are necessarily a result of our relationship with God. However, God still uses challenges to cause us to grow (Hebrews 12 v3-11) and He still loves to heal!

3

Aim

To allow the psalm to shape our discipleship in good times and bad.

Some Possible Questions

Divide into twos and threes and search the Psalm for examples of the psalmist's attitude towards God. Ask each group to either look for the psalmist's attitude when things were going badly, or when they'd been rescued. Report back.

Are there any differences with the attitudes we identified in ourselves earlier? What challenges you about the psalmist's responses?

In v3 the psalmist metaphorically experiences a resurrection. How do the mini-resurrections in our lives reminds us of the final resurrection we look forward to?

How can we help each other to live as disciples when things are going well?

How would you share the gospel with someone who had just experienced a great blessing?

