

The Promise of the Spirit — June 16 & 17, 2018
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Psalm 42

- How does the psalmist describe his desperation and humiliation (1-3)? What does he remember (4)? As someone in the depths of pain, why do you think he chooses to recall these things about God? He even goes so far as to record them for a song. Why?
- Summarize the psalmist's message to his own soul (5-7). Meditate on the phrase "deep calls to deep." How do you think God feels when the inmost part of us calls out to him? Reflect on your most soulful time of longing for the Lord. Pray such seasons would be rich with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- Describe the psalmist's re-emphasis on his feelings of desperation and distance from the Lord (9-10). Despite these feelings, what does he somehow remember (8)? In concluding this song, what are his final remarks to his soul (11)? Speak to your own soul now, exhorting it to never stop seeking more of God's Spirit.

Day Two: Psalm 126

- What was it like for God's people when he "restored the fortunes of Zion" (1)? Spend a few minutes meditating on this verse; what does it mean to be "like those who dreamed"? How does it relate to Joel 2:26? What wonders has the Lord worked for you, and what wonders do you expect him to work in the future?
- How did the people express their feelings during this time (2-3)? How did others respond to what they saw the Lord doing (2)? How do you usually respond when God pours his goodness out on you? How do you think he wants you to respond?
- What does the psalmist tell God to do (4)? What does he claim will happen for the sorrowful (5-6)? What is the cause of any current sorrow in *your* life? Do you believe a song of joy will one day be yours to sing? Speak to the Lord about your hopes and fears.

Day Three: Psalm 145

- What does David say directly to God (1-2, 5-6, 13)? What are we unable to fathom (3)? What does each generation do (4-7)? What role do you play in passing down stories of God's goodness? Describe his goodness (8-9, 13, 17). What echo is found in Joel 2:13? Such qualities should nurture a feeling of safety in coming to the Lord in our brokenness. What do you think God wants to do for you when you approach him in such a state?
- Who and what preach God's truth (10, 21)? In what ways (10-11, 21)? What is one outcome (12)? In Joel 2:28-29, the prophet says proclamations will one day come supernaturally. Pray you will be among those to receive and experience the Spirit in such a way.
- Describe God's provision and protection (14-16, 18-20). Do you feel satisfied and protected by the Lord? Do you believe he genuinely and personally cares for you? Why or why not? Share your answer with God and ask him to speak.

Day Four: Jeremiah 29:10-14

- In what season of great desperation did God speak these words through the prophet Jeremiah (10)? How long would the people have to wait for the Lord's rescue (10)? When you're waiting in desperation, God often uses that time to prepare you to receive the Holy Spirit. How does this make you feel?

- Describe the plan the Lord has for his people (11). Imagine God speaking these words directly to you. What hope has he given to you? What future do you think he has in store for you?
- What sort of relationship will God have with his people when hopes for the future become reality (12-14)? Re-read verse 13 and spend a minute or two meditating on it. Why is seeking the Lord “with all your heart” so fruitful? Try opening your whole heart to him now. Don’t hide; step out to look for him. Imagine him restoring you. What is your response?

Day Five: Matthew 5:1-12

- Set the scene of this text (1-2). Picture yourself as one of the disciples. Are you sitting or standing? What’s the weather like? What else do you see in your mind’s eye?
- Name each group that is blessed (3-10). Why is each respective group blessed (3-10)? Where are you on this list? Explain. Success is not always a sign of blessing. Rather, in moments of pain and desperation when the Lord draws close and fills us with his Spirit, *this* is the Jesus version of blessed. Ask God to help you believe this in your mind and receive it in your heart.
- Jesus then says, “Blessed are *you*...” And he doesn’t say, “if;” he says, “*when*.” What is inevitable for his followers (11)? How should we respond (12)? Why (12)? If you desire smooth sailing in life, following Jesus is a very poor strategy. When hardship comes, how can you get through it? Ask God to give you more of the Holy Spirit now, in abundance. May it bolster you in hard seasons.