

What Do You Do When You Can't Find God? – September 15 & 16, 2018
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Psalm 16

- What does David want from God (1)? What does he say to him (2)? Is this *really* true: that apart from the Lord we have no good thing? Put what David is trying to say into your own words. What needs can only God meet? How do you know this to be true in your own life? What does David say about God's people (3-4)?
- How else does David describe the way God satisfies (5-6, 9-11)? What difference have regular encounters with God made for you? Tell the Lord how he satisfies your hunger and quenches your thirst. As his child, what inheritance do you expect to get? How secure do you feel in your connection to him? What joy does he bring to your life? Tell him all these things.
- What does David commit to keep doing (7-8)? When your life is turned upside down, why is it good to do these things? Pray for the spiritually disoriented now – that they would keep their eyes on Jesus and anchor their hope in him.

Day Two: Psalm 40:1-5

- Describe David's manner of waiting for the Lord (1). How did God respond to this (1)? What do you think David needed from the Lord at this time? What's it like for *you* to wait on God? If you want to do better, read psalms of lament aloud; preach to your own soul; and look for God in the now, instead of reminiscing about the past. Start with one of these options, and see where it takes you.
- What did the Lord do when he heard David's cry (2-3)? What "new song" has God given to you? What compels you to sing it out? What tempts you to sing an "old song" instead? May you resist nostalgia and instead be part of what God is doing right now.
- In whom do the blessed trust (4)? What false hopes do they forsake (4)? Ponder the paradox of hoping in God when we can't seem to find him. What do you sense the Lord speaking? Why is it worthwhile to anchor your hope in God (5)? How does your own life testify to the truth that "none can compare" with him?

Day Three: Jeremiah 20:7-18

- What does Jeremiah accuse God of doing (7-8)? Describe his protest method (8). How do you think God responds to lament? How free do you feel in expressing your full range of emotions to the Lord? You could try the silent treatment instead, but how did that work out for Jeremiah (9)? What do you think would happen to you if you stopped talking to or about God?
- What do others think of Jeremiah's hardship (10)? Has anyone ever desired *your* failure? Such hostility is rebutted with the truth found in verses 11-13. Read it aloud now, and whenever you feel attacked. The Lord is your mighty warrior and your rescuer!
- Next Jeremiah returns to passionate lament; describe the imagery he employs (14-18). How do you think God feels to hear this? Take a bold step now: bring the Lord into whatever thoughts and emotions you're experiencing, including the most intense, even those that seem wrong. As you do so, what is he speaking?

Day Four: John 6:60-69

- After Jesus appeared to tell his followers that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood, how did many of them respond (60)? Considering everything Jesus has taught you via the Bible, the Holy Spirit, life experience, etc. What hard teachings are challenging for

you to accept? Why? Today, where are you on this journey of embracing everything Jesus wants to teach us?

- What did Jesus sense about the disciples (61)? What did he say to them (61-65)? What life does the Holy Spirit give to you? Which of Jesus' words in the gospels feel most full of the Spirit? After he spoke, what did some of Jesus' followers do (66)? How do you think Jesus felt at this point?
- What question did Jesus ask specifically of the Twelve (67)? Summarize Peter's answer (68-69). Because Jesus has "the words of eternal life," truly, where else could we possibly go when life gets turned upside down? Speak to the Lord about this.

Day Five: Revelation 3:19-22

- What does Jesus do for those he loves (19)? What should this inspire *us* to do (19)? Do you agree with Jesus' logic here? When God disciplines you, do you sense his love? What about when you repent; what do you sense then? How does this verse apply to seasons of struggling to find God when life is upended?
- What does Jesus announce next (20)? He knocks and desires to come in no matter what's on the other side, be it a tidy life, or a complete mess of heartbreak and doubt. Imagine opening the door for Jesus today. What would he see? What would it be like to eat with him? How does this make you feel?
- In verse 21, what do you think it means to be "victorious"? What did Jesus do that was victorious? What will it be like to sit with him on his throne? What is Jesus' final admonition in this passage (22)? May you truly hear and respond to his invitation to converse with him and put your hope in him, no matter the situation.