

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Hope in God (Psalm 42 & 43)**

Date: **June 25, 2017**

When someone thinks of the book of Psalms, the first type of psalm that usually comes to mind is a psalm of praise. Interestingly though, the most common genre of psalm in the book of Psalms is the lament psalm. Lament psalms are examples of the psalmist crying out to God during a time of despair. God has given us these Psalms to give a voice to the hard and difficult times that we go through in life. Usually trials and difficulties seemingly come out of nowhere and take us by surprise. The loss of a loved one, illness, the loss of a job, spiritual dryness, spiritual oppression, and disappointment are just a handful of situations in which we can be prone to despair and discouragement. The book of Psalms has a lot to say to us when we find ourselves in these difficult times. The two psalms that we will be looking at in this week's study will encourage us to remember God's faithfulness, ask God for help and deliverance, and hope in him when we find ourselves in difficult times.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Psalm 42 & 43 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. Why are Psalms 42 & 43 meant to be read together at though they were a single psalm?
 - b. What evidence from within this psalm demonstrates that the psalmist feels as though God is silent?
 - c. Does the psalmist stay silent about his feelings of abandonment? Why is it not only appropriate but helpful to honestly talk to God about how we feel during hard times?
 - d. What does the psalmist choose to remember in the midst of his suffering? See 42:4,6. Why is this important?
 - e. The psalmist makes several petitions in Psalm 43. What does he ask for?
 - f. Why is it important that we pray to God and ask him for help when we suffer?

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- g. What does it mean to hope in God (42:5, 42:11, 43:5)?
- h. How is the theme of hope and salvation more complete for us now than it was during the time of the Psalmist?
- i. Who is the object of our hope as Christians? How can we set our hope on him in the midst of the chaos of life?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Have you ever found yourself in a situation in which it felt as though God was silent? What did you do in response to this? How did you persevere through this hard time?
3. Why do you think lament psalms are the most common genre of psalm found in the book of Psalms? What do lament psalms teach us about how we ought to speak to God in the midst of hard times?
4. What sorts of things do you find helpful to *remember* when you find yourself in a difficult trial? Why is it important for you to remember those things?
5. When we feel as though there's no hope, what can we do to get back to a place where we hope in God? Why is there always reason to hope?

Accountability Question

Do you find yourself in the midst of hard times? How can we pray for you?