

## LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

## *Psalms Series*

These questions are for the **March 27, 2022**, sermon, "Of Proverbs and Riddles." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 49) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE PONDER THE ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH, NOTE . . .

1. The summons we need to heed. (1-4)
  - a. This psalm is not focused on Israel, but on "all inhabitants of the world."
  - b. God blesses the whole world through his people.
    - i. His people are meant to publicly trust him (the way we think and live).
    - ii. His people are meant to publicly proclaim his praise (the words we utter).
2. The question we need to answer. (5-12)
  - a. "Why should I fear in times of trouble?"
    - i. We have God's promises and God's presence to carry us through.
    - ii. We must teach our souls to actively trust God, especially in times of trouble.
  - b. Evil doers successfully amass wealth, hoping in it, even cheating others out of money.
  - c. The one who trusts God will never be separated from him, even in death.
3. The promise we need to believe. (13-15)
  - a. "God will ransom my soul" and "receive me" into his presence.
  - b. It is foolish to boast about wealth; every person will be separated from their money.
  - c. It is short-sighted for believers to fear death; we will never be separated from God.
4. The perspective we need to maintain. (16-20)
  - a. For the unbeliever, this world is as good as things will ever get for them (selah).
  - b. For the believer, this world is as bad as things will ever get for us (selah).
    - i. Let us not envy the perceived comfort or wealth of the wicked.
    - ii. Let us "not fear" death or even the trouble of our days. God is faithful!

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The ways that believers feel about and talk about trouble and money is completely counter to unbelievers. In fact, sometimes God allows for this difference to be a "summons" to earth dwellers to see him more clearly, and treasure him more fully. Discuss.
2. Based on #2, above: While we have emotional reactions, believers also process their trouble and ask themselves, "Why should I fear?" Not fearing does not mean "not grieving" or "not feeling." It means that we will not make our next decisions according to the values of the world, or as if God has deserted us. We will trust him. How are you doing with this?
3. Based on #3, above: The promises we have from God help us with the known daily problems (earthly "troubles") and with the unknown ultimate problems (death). How do God's promises help you deal with daily problems and walk in integrity? How do God's promises help you deal with your unknown number of days in this world?
4. Based on #4, above: Not only do we not envy the unscrupulous and those who live for money (fun, entertainment, ease), but we actually pity them. It's our hope to "summons" them to Jesus. Discuss how this pity truly turns into mission in the way we think, live, speak and pray.