

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Psalms Series

These questions are for the **May 15, 2022**, sermon, "The Rock." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 61) together out loud.

Passage Outline

WHEN PRAYING IN THE MIDST OF TRYING TIMES . . .

1. Look back and consider how God has protected. (1-4)
 - a. David is providing a model prayer for us to follow.
 - b. He faced relentless afflictions, yet continually cried out to God.
 - c. What are the challenges which might keep you from Jesus?
 - d. As he looked back, David was keen to see how God was his refuge. His safety.
 - e. We are invited to pray, recalling all the ways God has protected us. (1-2)
 - f. We are invited to pray, treasuring the presence of God with us (even in affliction). (3-4)
2. Look ahead and consider how God will provide. (5-8)
 - a. Here is an invitation to the nations (not Jews only) to take God's promises seriously.
 - b. We must learn to . . .
 - i. Pray according to God's promises. We take him at his Word.
 - ii. Believe that God's grace is greater than our afflictions.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Take a look back. How has God protected / delivered you from great affliction?
2. Based on #1, above: David emphasizes the presence of God himself during great affliction: God is his "refuge," "strong tower," and "dwelling place" (tent). How have you experienced the presence of God in his rescuing you from great trials?
3. Based on #2, above: When we pray for earthly rewards (ease, comfort, health and fleshly happiness), we may be praying against the will of God, for his servants are often sick or afflicted and always die. How might you change your prayer life so that "your prayers are strengthened by God's promises"?
 - Consider: God has promised he will never leave you or forsake you.
 - Consider: God has promised his Son would pay the sin debt of those who trust him.
 - Consider: God has promised to be your shield, protector, leader, purpose and help.
4. Based on #2, above: When we pray according to God's promises we have confidence that God will act, we have direction for what we should (and should not) pray and we often look forward to a settled and certain eternity. In what ways are you growing in your confidence, direction and hope in prayer?