

Bible Summary

Despair
Psalm 88

In contrast to the “Happiness” series we are going to look at the darkest chapter in Psalms. There is nothing positive in this Psalm, but instead it is full of angry despair, disappointment with God, blame, doubt, etc. The big question is: why would God have this Psalm included in His word? The answer gives us confidence in the character of our Redeemer.

Scriptures – Psalm 88; Isaiah 61:3; Romans 16:20; Jeremiah 1:6; Ezekiel 3:15

Bible Questions & Application

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.
There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. What was your main takeaway from Sunday’s teaching? Also, what do you think is the value of studying this psalm of despair after a series on happiness?
2. God chose to put Psalm 88 in His Word to remind us that “it’s okay not to be okay.”
 - a. Why do we struggle to be honest with God when we don’t feel okay?
 - b. Why do we--especially believers--feel compelled to act like we’re okay when we are going through difficult times?
3. Are we serving and loving God for what He does or for who He is?
4. What do you think it means when we say God is “safe”?
5. Most of us are scared of the dark, but it is in times of darkness that God works out His masterpiece.
 - a. What is your initial response when darkness comes?
 - b. Share about a time that God produced a masterpiece through darkness in your life.
6. Mother Teresa once said, “I know God will not give me anything I can’t handle. I just wish that He didn’t trust me so much.”
 - a. Is there anything God has been asking of you that you’ve been reluctant to do because you fear hardship and uncertainty?
7. Are you currently going through a dark time in your life? If so, how can we pray for you as a group?

“Getting to Know You” Questions

1. Since we last met, what are a couple things you’re particularly thankful for? (Philippians 4:8)
2. What is a challenge you are facing right now?
3. What is one thing you are looking forward to?
4. How can we pray for you this week?