

Hope Over Disillusionment Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Generally speaking, do you feel like you need to finish everything you start, or do you find it easy to move on from something you don't want to finish for some reason?
2. What is one thing about yourself that you like?

Read the following passage: Psalm 73.

When we suffer from relentless injustice, or lose those the things that are dearest to us, or have responsibilities way beyond what we can handle, or give it our best and get nowhere, it is easy to lose hope. We may begin to feel like life is pointless, that it is no longer worth living. Like the psalmist, many of the greatest leaders in the Bible wrestled with disillusionment. Moses was overwhelmed. Naomi lost everything. The teacher in Ecclesiastes felt like all of his accomplishments were meaningless. But Psalm 73 shows us the way out. We were made for God's presence, and when we draw near to him, we see everything with a different perspective. Justice will be done. This life is not the end. And God is always with us.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why was Asaph (the author of Psalm 73) disillusioned? Have you ever felt how Asaph felt? Explain.
2. Read Numbers 11:11-15. Why was Moses overwhelmed? What can lead you to feel overwhelmed? What can we do when we feel overwhelmed?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-11. Why do you think the Teacher in Ecclesiastes wasn't helped by more projects, more possessions, and more pleasures? Do you find yourself attempting the same remedies? Explain.
4. In Psalm 73, what caused the dramatic turnaround in Asaph's perspective? How can we experience that same turnaround? More generally, how do we resist disillusionment?
5. Do you have hope for life after death? What is your understanding of what life after death will be like? According to Psalm 73, should everyone be hopeful about the afterlife? If you have hope for the afterlife, to what extent does that help you in the present?
6. Has injustice been a significant part of your life experience? Explain. If so, what helps you persevere in spite of the injustice you experience?
7. Have you been able to regularly experience God's presence and comfort over the past few months? Explain. What can we do to experience God's presence?

Pray