

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Crying out to God in the Darkness**

Psalm 88

PRAYER

Spend time praying together as a CG. See below as application – praise God for his grace to us in our mission and pray for more conversions/church plants, locally and globally.

APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30 (SERMON FROM FEBRUARY 17)

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God's word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Philippians 2:19-30
2. How does this text help us think about mission in our personal lives and as a church?
3. What evidences, fruits or attitudes can we identify when somebody is really pursuing the interest of Christ in his/her life? How can we practically/tangibly encourage this in one another?
4. Discuss the ways our church partners with others to advance the gospel. (E.g. IBSG, NIQ, Campus Outreach, short-term teams,
5. Praise God for the financial generosity of our church that allows us to help plant churches, locally and globally.
6. Pray for our brothers and sisters at Sublime Gracia.
7. Pray for our brothers and sisters laboring for the gospel in the Middle East. Pray for the RC team that will visit in mid-March.
8. Pray that the Lord would raise up more men and women from Restoration Church to take the gospel to the nations.

STUDY // PSALM 88 (SERMON TEXT FOR FEBRUARY 24)

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Psalm 88.
2. According to the superscript, who wrote this Psalm?
3. Read the following verses, and discuss what they tell us about the author of this Psalm? How does this provide into the content of this Psalm?
 - a. 1 Chronicles 25:4-6
 - b. 2 Chronicles 5:11-12

c. 1 Kings 4:31

4. How would you summarize this Psalm?
5. How is this Psalm like other Psalms that you are aware of?
6. How is this Psalm different than other Psalms?
7. What are the main themes you notice in this Psalm?
8. From verse 1, what do you observe about Heman's faith?
9. Notice the repetition of Heman crying out to the "LORD" (the covenant name of God). What does this tell you about Heman's faith?
10. Discuss the various images/words that give us insight into the Psalmist's troubled soul.
11. Where do you see Heman ascribing his troubles to the sovereignty of God? What does this tell us about Heman's view of God?
12. Notice in verses 10-14, Heman asks questions to God. What do you notice about these questions?
13. How does this Psalm express a continued cry out to God?
14. Notice this Psalm starts with a cry of despair and ends with a companion of darkness. What are we to make of this abrupt, dark ending?
15. How does this Psalm point us to Jesus?
16. General Bible study questions:
 - a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Identify evidences of grace in each other's lives. Pray for the brokenhearted and crushed in spirit.