

## Small Group – Jan 30 – Leader’s Guide

### Read Psalm 122

1. The psalm is a song of arrival, arriving at the gates of Jerusalem after so long on the road of pilgrimage. In our society, what are people on "pilgrimage" for and what "destination" are they seeking?

*Everyone is on a voyage, quest, or pilgrimage in search of a higher, bigger, and greater purpose, meaning, or goal than themselves. Whether it be money, fame, success, influence, pleasures, friendships, love, peace, etc., we as humans are always journeying in search of transcendence we hope would outlast our own mortality and insignificance.*

2. Even as the psalmist celebrates arriving at his destination, he longs for his destiny to worship God in thanksgiving with his fellow pilgrims inside the Temple. As Christians, what do we long for whenever we gather to worship Jesus together with our brothers and sisters in church, whether livestream or inside the building?

*Allow open conversation for others to share about what their experiences are and what their hopes are for each Sunday worship.*

3. The psalmist celebrates Jerusalem as a city of unity, piety, and equity. He envisions the ideal Jerusalem as embodying these virtues as the City of Peace. How can we as Christian strive to embody these same virtues in our own city of Toronto?

*Social media divides more than it unites. And so, we must particularly be mindful of how and what we post online especially in matters of great controversy. We must likewise pay attention to what and how we worship (i.e. piety) in terms of how much we give of our time, effort, and money to a cause, an event, to an experience, to an object, to a person, etc. Finally, for equity and justice, let us consider how to live out righteousness in the most practical and on-the-ground manner, starting in our own homes, in our streets, neighbourhoods, and then beyond.*

4. The psalmist ends with an invitation to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and to be a person of peace who seeks the city's good. What can we be praying for for Toronto and how can we practically seek Toronto's good?

*Allow open conversation and sharing for what is pressing or concerning inside people's hearts and minds concerning Toronto.*