

Apr 3 – Leader’s Guide - Psalm 132: “Looking Backward to See Forward”

Read Psalm 132

Contextually this psalm calls to mind the Davidic Covenant made between God and King

David which promises a future of God’s people together in Zion. This psalm calls this to mind in times of peace and in times of difficulty. In recounting what God has done for His people in the past, the Israelite’s look to the future as they know (From the past) that God will do as He has promised. This is particularly meaningful for Christians who now look to the fulfillment of this psalm in Jesus’ promised return. This invites a particular response from us as part of the Christian life is navigating life in between the promise of Christ’s return, and the present moment in which things in the world seem to suggest otherwise.

1. What sort of places might we feel a disconnect between what we read in scripture, and what we see in our lives?

There’s a lot going on in the world right now. You can pick any possible thing from inflation, mental health rates, Church decline, the war in Ukraine etc. Yet this isn’t the only place we encounter disconnection, in the big and lofty problems. Sometimes we can feel disconnected in the work we do, when a small comment catches us the wrong way, or when weekend plans don’t come together. Each of these moments of challenge can be grounded in the truth of Scripture, if we have the patience to find it. Maybe you could share some scripture verses that offer you comfort in times of hardship and collect them as a group? I am always surprised at how God’s Word speaks to people.

2. As you read through the psalm, were there any verses or phrases that really stuck out to you?

This is a good time to press into the text itself and really let it open up. It may be useful to have the text read aloud by different people, maybe even with different translations being used.

3. Do you remember a time in your life where everything seemed to be against you? Where you needed God's deliverance and couldn't see it happen? How did God bring you through and hold you up during these times? This might be a good opportunity to share a vulnerable moment with the group.

It might be fruitful as leaders, to consider something you can share here to get things rolling. It doesn't have to be something major! God is concerned with all of our lives. Sometimes we need something small and seemingly insignificant, and He answers our prayer. Sometimes this happens in huge areas too. Nothing is off limits here when discussing the work of God in our lives. The Scriptures are full of examples of little details mattering. Sharing how God delivers us is to do the same thing Israel does over and over again and connects us with our place in the greater witness of His people throughout time.

4. Vs. 13-14 give a picture of God choosing a place and choosing rest. What might it say that God chooses a particular place and that this place is a place of rest?

Food for thought: often people think that the opposite of rest is work, but it's actually restlessness. Let that sink in. What might it mean for us that the picture we are given in the psalm about rest includes dwelling with God and His people? How might place and rest be connected? Are there places you associate with rest? What might those collective spaces say about the God who created them?

5. When we look at Jesus' promise to come again, how do we think about our life here now? Are there any practices we can think of that would help ground us in the memory of God's promises and our hope for the future?

Building devotional habits is interwoven to this particular season of the Church year, but the life of Christian devotion is certainly longer than 40 days! What are some devotional habits that keep you grounded in your daily walk with Christ? Is it weekly/daily Scripture memorization? Devoted prayer time? Going somewhere specific to read the Scriptures? Listening to them? Does this devotional habit look more like serving others or fasting? How might being in these habits of prayer and attentiveness to God help keep you rooted in an unstable world?