

How Long Oh Lord

I will exalt Your name
and give you praise.

Small Group Notes - Session One - Overview

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

Introduction

Describe to your group some times when you have faced challenges or suffering.

What different feelings did your time of hardship produce?

What different questions did you find yourself asking in that situation?

Read Psalm 22:1-21

In our moments of suffering do we cry out to God like this? Why/Why not?

What difference would it make if we prayed like the psalmist?

What difference does it make knowing this was also the prayer of our saviour Jesus on the cross?

Why doesn't God do something

One of the biggest questions we ask about suffering is 'why God doesn't do something about it'!

Read Revelation 20:11-12

God has set a day when he will bring an end to all the wrong that happens in our world, judging and bringing justice.

In what ways might these verses unnerve us?

In what ways might these verses comfort us?

Sometimes we wonder why God does not bring this day of justice more quickly. **How does 2 Peter 3:8-9 help us understand why?**

Do you feel as if God is slow to bring about his promises?

*How, in the light of these verses, might you answer someone asking 'why God hasn't **already** ended all the suffering'?*

Finally read Romans 8:22-25 and Revelation 21:1-4

How do these verses help us to have hope in the face of suffering?

What causes us to doubt the reality of these future promises?

How can we encourage one another to have confidence in the promises of God?

Conclusion

Christians are a people marked by hope - hope for the day when all pain will end and death will be no more. God will in the end bring complete healing to his children. In our pain he encourages us to cry out to him, knowing he has experienced similar pain.

How might these spiritual truths practically help us next time we face the challenge of suffering?

Spend time praying for each other in response to God's word this week.