

Week 40– Questions to Consider
Psalm 117 ~ Psalm 118 ~ Proverbs 24:1-18

Small Group Warm Up Question:

What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about parenting and family?

1. Psalm 117 is super short (two verses) but focus on two key aspects of God's character: love and faithfulness. How would you define love and faithfulness? Why are they such important characteristics in a relationship? Other world religions, sects, and cults portray God as distant, uninvolved, or impersonal. How does it impact you to focus on God's love and faithfulness?
2. Psalm 118 continues the theme of "steadfast love" in its first four verses. If your family/house were to describe ways in which God has loved you consistently, what might you mention?
3. When were you in a situation in which you felt entrapped, surrounded or captive to someone else's will or a tough situation? How did the Lord set you "free" in that circumstance or from that person?
4. Look at Psalm 118:6. If people can cause lots of harm to us, how can the Psalmist write "What can man do to me?" What are some of your biggest fears in life about what people might do to you or your family? How can you similarly reorient your mind about those fears in such a way that you can find peace in the midst of stressful scenarios?
5. What is a "refuge"? Why do we "take refuge" in others? What some ways in which we might try to "take refuge" in someone other than God? How can we shift our mindset and heart towards a trust in God? What steps can we take to daily trust more deeply in God?
6. Have you ever had a "near death" experience? What was that like? What did you learn from it? In Psalm 118:17, what is the purpose of life that the Psalmist gives himself to after a "near death" experience? If you knew you only had one year to live, what changes would you make in your life?
7. What is the purpose of parental discipline? How would your parents discipline you growing up? What was effective and what was ineffective? When was a time that you think you experienced the Lord's "severe discipline" (Psalm 118:18)? What was that like?
8. Do you have any gates at your house? What is the purpose of a gate? Do you keep them locked or unlocked? Why? How might you pray similarly to Psalm 118:19-21?

More questions @ www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide

www.TrustworthyWord.com

www.Bible.video

The Fear of Man VS. The Love of God

Psalm 118 (ESV)

The Fear of Man - 4 Temptations to Avoid

1. Troubling Situations Tempt Us to S_____ to People before God

- Psalm 118:5 "Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free."
- Distress: extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain
- What is your distress? Who do you go to when you are worried, sad, or hurting?

2. Opposition Tempts Us to Fear People more than God

- Psalm 118:6 "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"
- What things do you worry about people thinking, feeling, saying, doing, or failing to do?

3. Hatred Tempts Us to Seek P_____ People Instead of God

- Psalm 118:7 "The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me."
- Who is against you? Who is for you?

4. Our Suffering Tempts Us to Trust People & Government in Place of God for the Future

- Psalm 118:8-9 "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes."
- How do you seek protection for the future?

October 8, 2023

The Love of God: 8 Decisions You Can Make Today & Everyday

1. When Evil Surrounds You, I _____ with God's Name

- Psalm 118:10 "All nations surrounded me; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!"

2. When Life Knocks You Down, Let God Pick You Up

- Psalm 118:13 "I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me."

3. When Death Threatens, C _____ Hope in Jesus

- Psalm 118:14 "The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

4. When Sadness Strikes, Remember God's Works

Psalm 118:15-16 "Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: 'The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!'"

5. When You Suffer for Your Sin, Keep Things in P _____

- Psalm 118:18 "The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death."

6. When Busyness Overwhelms You, Prioritize Gratitude

- Psalm 118:19 "Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD."
- Psalm 118:28 "You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you."

7. When Darkness Surrounds You, W _____ in His Marvelous Light

- Psalm 118:27 "The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!"
- 2 Timothy 1:7 "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

8. When Your Circumstances Feel Bad & Worrisome, Refocus on God's Goodness and Love!

- Psalm 118:1,29 "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"
- Psalm 118:26 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD."

This Next Week's Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:

Week 41: Psalm 119:1-88 ~ Proverbs 24:19-34

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2023-bible-reading-plan

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