

Week 45– Questions to Consider

Psalms 126 ~ Psalm 127 ~ Psalm 128 ~ Proverbs 26:17-28

Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is a favorite memory of yours from growing up in church?

1. What does the word “restore” mean? What does it imply about the previous situation? What does it describe about the current situation?
2. While we don’t know the details of what specific events are being described by Psalm 126, we can see their descriptions of their feelings. What are some of their responses to God’s mercy and blessing that stand out to you in Psalm 126?
3. When was a time in your life when you believe the Lord “restored” you by showing you mercy and blessing? How did that make you feel? What are some of the “great things” the Lord has done for you? (Psalm 126:3)
4. The Negeb is a very dry section of southern Israel. What is the significance of asking God for a blessing “like streams in the Negeb”? (Psalm 126:4)
5. Grain seed is the edible harvest that is used to make food such as bread. The same seed is used for planting the next year’s crops. What is the significant investment/risk a farmer takes at the time of planting? Why would a farmer be “weeping” when he goes out to plant the “seed for sowing”? Why would a farmer “come home with shouts of joy” at harvest time? (Psalm 126:5-6)
6. How did Jesus “sow” Himself on the cross? As a dead “seed” into the ground? How did He “sow in tears”? How did Christ “reap”? How did Jesus “come home with shouts of joy”? Who are the “his sheaves” that He brings with Him?
7. What can Christians “sow” with their lives and labors? How might such efforts result in “tears” and “weeping”? What do Christians “reap with shouts of joy”?
8. Why do you think Psalm 127:1 is such a popular verse? How would you summarize and explain this verse to a child? How would you summarize and explain the rest of Psalm 127? What do you think God is trying to teach you through Psalm 127?
9. How can you tell if a child respects their parents? How can you tell if a student respects their teacher? How can you tell if a patient respects their doctor? How can you tell if someone “fears the Lord”? (Psalm 128:1)

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

How to Have a Lasting Spiritual Impact

Psalm 126 (ESV)

The Farmer -> His Sown Seed

Psalm 126:5–6 “Those who sow...He who goes out...bearing the seed for sowing”

The Farmer -> His Tears & Weeping

Psalm 126:5–6 “Those who sow in tears...He who goes out weeping”

The Farmer -> His Joyful Harvest

Psalm 126:5–6 “shall reap with shouts of joy!...shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Jesus -> The Sown Seed

- Mark 4:26–32 “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground... the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how... like a grain of mustard seed...the smallest of all the seeds on earth...becomes larger than all the garden plants”
- Matthew 13:36–43 “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. [38] The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. ..The harvest is the end of the age”

Jesus -> His Tears & Weeping

- Luke 19:41–44 “when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it”
- Matthew 27:26–31 “scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified...they stripped him...they mocked him...they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head...and led him away to crucify him.”
- Luke 23:34 “Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.”
- Matt 27:50 “Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.”

Jesus -> His Joyful Harvest

- Matthew 27:51–53 “And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. [52] The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, [53] and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”
- 1 Thess 3:13 “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 “For the Lord himself will descend ... the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, & so we will always be with the Lord.”

Christians -> Our Sown Seed

- 1 Peter 1:22–23 “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, [23] since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God”

Christians -> Our Tears & Weeping

- Luke 8:5–8 “A sower went out to sow his seed...the path...the rock...good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.”
- Luke 8:11–15 “The seed is the word of God...the path...the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, ...the rock...have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away... the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature...the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”
- Romans 9:1–3 “I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart...accursed and cut off from Christ”
- John 15:18–25 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you...If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...” “They hated me without a cause.”

Christians -> Our Joyful Harvest

- Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.”
- Matthew 9:37–38 “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
- 1 John 3:9–10 “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”
- Matthew 3:8 “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”
- Matthew 7:16–17 “You will recognize them by their fruits...”
- Galatians 5:22–24 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:35–37, 42–44 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” [36] You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. [37] And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain...[42] So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. [43] It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. [44] It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”

This Next Week’s Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:

Week 46: Psalm 129 ~ Psalm 130 ~ Psalm 131 ~ Proverbs 27

- **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

How to Have a Lasting Spiritual Impact

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The Farmer -> His Joyful Harvest

Psalm 126:5-6 “shall reap with shouts of joy!...shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Jesus -> The Sown Seed

Mark 4:26-32 “And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. [27] He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. [28] The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. [29] But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” [30] And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? [31] It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, [32] yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Matthew 13:36-43 “Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” [37] He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. [38] The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, [39] and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. [40] Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. [41] The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, [42] and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [43] Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

Jesus -> His Tears & Weeping

Luke 19:41–44 “And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, [42] saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. [43] For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side [44] and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.” (ESV)

Matthew 27:26–31 “Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. [27] Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. [28] And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, [29] and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” [30] And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. [31] And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.”

Luke 23:34 “And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.”

Matthew 27:50 “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.” (ESV)

Jesus -> His Joyful Harvest

Matthew 27:51–53 “And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. [52] The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, [53] and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”

1 Thessalonians 3:13 “so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. (ESV)

Christians -> Our Sown Seed

1 Peter 1:22–23 “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, [23] since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God”

Christians -> Our Tears & Weeping

Luke 8:5–8 “**A sower went out to sow his seed.** And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. [6] And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. [7] And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. [8] And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (ESV)

Luke 8:11–15 “Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.** [12] The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the **devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts**, so that they may not believe and be saved. [13] And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; **they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.** [14] And as for what fell among the thorns, they are **those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.** [15] As for that in the **good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.**”

Romans 9:1–3 “I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—[2] that **I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.** [3] For I could wish that I myself were **accursed and cut off from Christ** for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.”

John 15:18–25 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you...because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ...If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...” They hated me without a cause.”

Christians -> Our Joyful Harvest

Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.”

Matthew 9:37–38 “Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.””

1 John 3:9–10 “No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. [10] By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

Matthew 3:8 “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”

Matthew 7:16–17 “You will recognize them by their fruits....So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.”

Galatians 5:22–24 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

1 Corinthians 15:35–37, 42–44 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” [36] You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. [37] And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain...[42] So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. [43] It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. [44] It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”