

THE LONG-AWAITED SAVIOUR

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

3 & 4 DEC 2022

“IN SORROW, A LONG-AWAITED SALVATION”

PSALM 22

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

Not Forsaken

Psalm 22 begins with the tormented cry: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus uttered these words at the highest point of His suffering on the cross. (This has come to be known as the Cry of Dereliction.) At that point, he had never before known the deep sense of separation from God that he was experiencing then. While we might think there is more significance to His being forsaken given He is the Son of God and being the sinless atonement for all of us, this cry for God applies as much to us.

Jesus was quoting David in Psalm 22:1. David was suffering – he was surrounded by enemies and his body was in pain, but more than anything, he felt abandoned by God. Yet, David didn't doubt that God was still his God, nor lose faith in Him, he just wondered why God seemed to have forsaken him at that point in time.

When God seems to have abandoned us, like David we must recall God's faithfulness in our lives. Because Jesus, who became human and took our place as substitute for our sins and our death, has cried out the first line of Psalm 22, we may identify with His words in our own suffering. And just as God delivered Jesus and raised Him from the dead, He will surely come to our rescue.

2. In Psalm 22, the psalmist cried out:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

and by night, but I find no rest. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Share a time or situation in your life when you came close to praying this prayer. (Give members of the group time to ponder this question; do not rush. The group leader / facilitator can say a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help us remember, and for courage to share.)

3. Consider vv.3-5 and vv.9-10. What are the two aspects of God that the psalmist recounted to help him respond to his sorrow and desperation? Why do you think recounting these attributes of God can help us in our own life challenges?

4. Read vv.6-8 and 12-18. Share an experience of intense suffering and sorrow caused by people, circumstances, or even by God (cf. v.15 onwards). What helped you to keep faith in God through it all?

Prayer Items

5. The final section of the psalm (vv.19-31) is a declaration of faith. Take turns to read these verses (preferably standing), and as you do so, turn this declaration into prayers for those who are suffering today. Pray, using these verses, for those in your CG, in your family/workplace/school, in our nation, and in the world.

(For example, we can pray using v.24:

Lord, you have “not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one” . . . you have “not hidden [your] face from him but listened to his cry for help”—and so Lord, we pray for those of your children (name them if possible) suffering from dementia today, that they will not feel forsaken. Instead, may they know your presence in their lives, and experience your love, even though they struggle to read the Bible and remember your words.)