

Small Group & Personal Bible Study

Memory Verse: Psalm 27:1

“The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?”

Daily Meditation Reading: Psalm 27 & 28

- Day 1 - Psalm 27:1-3
- Day 2 - Psalm 27:4-6
- Day 3 - Psalm 27:7-14
- Day 4 - Psalm 28:1-6
- Day 5 - Psalm 28:7-9

Discovery Bible Study Exercise: In your journal or on a piece of paper make three columns and follow these steps:

- Step #1: Write out Psalm 27:1
- Step #2: Re-write Psalm 27:1 in your own words
- Step #3: Write out what you discover from this passage?

Lesson: Wisdom during Discouraging Times

1. Reflecting on Pastor Tim’s message Sunday, which of the five principles (or the five Proverbs) spoke to you as something you must remember when facing discouraging times?

Proverbs 30:2 says that, “Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.” Even though I know and preach that. I have to remember that God’s word never fails. If I want to be prepared for trials and troubles I need to have His word embedded in my heart. I need to know that His word will always have the answers, the encouragement and the wisdom I need during discouraging times.

Another point important comes from Proverbs 24:10 which says, “If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!” I must remember that if I falter it is not the power of God’s word that failed me but my own trust in His word. Having faith in His promises will carry me through any and everything.

2. Read Psalm 27 and 28. What encouragement do you get from Psalm 27 and 28 that will help in the time of trouble?

A Personal Story: Psalm 27 has always been special to me. Although it seems like a distant memory, after the attack on 9/11 when many people feared the future, God drew me into Psalm 27. He used that verse to speak to me and to share it as an encouragement to many people that came to me in fear and with deep questions. At the time I was working as the Director of Training for Orchard Supply Hardware. Steve Belarmino (former co-worker, ministry partner and small group leader here at EVC) and I felt compelled to ask senior management permission to open up our training center for people to come and pray. God did amazingly more than I could imagine and through an unexpected twist of events.

Instead of opening up for prayer, we were asked to lead a time of worship and prayer by the flag pole. Almost every person in the corporate office attended and I had the opportunity to proclaim the truth found in Psalm 27 and to pray for over 200 people (in a secular corporate business office). It is like the promises if God unfolded right in front of us in the midst of one of the most troubling times in our history!

3. James 1:2 tells us to “consider it pure joy when we face trials of many kinds”. How difficult is it for you to find joy in the midst of trials?

Allow people to share their own struggles and let the word of God convict them that God can use times of trial to strengthen faith and fill us with joy and hope if we will choose the path of faith in God.

4. What will it take you to do to learn to face troubles with joy and hope?

Let people reflect on commitments they must make. This may include putting their faith in God as the Lord of their life. It may include committing to more time in the word. It may mean stepping away from being in control of their own life and allowing God to take control.