



SMALL GROUP STUDY

An Intersection Between Two Realities

The horizontal reality and the vertical reality intersect in the book of Psalms. The horizontal reality includes good, bad and mediocre times; all things done in your life and your relations with other humans. The vertical reality is all about our relationship with God; worship, prayer and faith. When you read through the Psalms you find that the authors don't deny human experience, pain and suffering. However, they view them through the lens of faith, God, worship--fully dependent upon God through every one of life's circumstances.

Psalm 73 is an honest confession of a struggling believer. It begins with an affirmation of faith. However, the psalmist expresses how his experiences have brought him to a spiritual dilemma. What he knows in his heart and what he sees with his eyes seem to clash. How can there be a loving God and yet evil prospers in the world? So, he works his way through this and he comes to a renewed faith in God and His purpose.

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm and it's longest chapter is a song about the Bible, the Word of God. It covers every area of life and is helpful in every way to meet every need.

In Psalm 139, a personal profile of God, we learn who God is. He knows everything (Omniscient), He is everywhere (Omnipresent), He is almighty (Omnipotent), and, He thinks of me (Obeisant). We must care about who God truly is. For if we are off about God, we will be off about how everything relates to Him.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Read Psalm 73: What do you think is the root problem of the writer and the source of his despair? What is the turning point, where the author regains his spiritual perspective?
- b. How can fellowship with other believers elevate a believer's perspective?
- c. Psalm 84 - Examine your heart: Do you feel worthless or restless? Consider the sparrow and the swallow and how they find acceptance and rest in God's care. How much more then does He care for you?
- d. Read Psalm 90: In what circumstances have you felt as Moses did? What hope do you find for your own life in this Psalm of Moses?
- e. Psalm 119: Which type of Bible reader are you? A butterfly--fluttering around? A botanist--with notebook writing hours of notes? Or, a bee--going down deep and extracting the pollen?
- f. Read Psalm 139: Examine each verse and list as many characteristics of God as can you find. Look up each of those characteristics in a dictionary.
- g. Examine your heart: In what way has your thinking been slightly off-course and inhibited your perspective of who God is?
- h. Read Psalm 150: How many times do you find the phrase, "Praise the Lord" ?
- i. Where does praise happen? What should your praise include? How should your praise be expressed?
- j. Let everything that has _____ praise the Lord!