

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

11. In Psalm 73:25, the psalmist acknowledged he had no one to turn to other than God. What are some ways we can remind ourselves and each other of this truth on a regular basis? How could this help you when darkness rains?

12. What do you need to cry out to God for today? How can we encourage one another to turn to God in our hopelessness and despair?

13. When Jesus suffered on the cross He cried out to God using Scripture from the Psalms. What would it look like for you to do the same thing? Has anyone ever done this before? What impact did it have on you in your time of despair?

Prayer Requests

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February 7, 2016

Sermon Notes

When Darkness Rains: The Cry of Despair

Psalm 88:1-18

1. The Poetic S_____

2. The Poet's L_____

With N_____ else to T_____, keep
C_____ O_____ to the God of your
S_____

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

February 7, 2016

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

1. Think about a time when you found yourself in a despairing or hopeless situation. How did you decide who to turn to for counsel or compassion during that season?

2. Do you have people to talk to when darkness or despair rains down on us?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-14.

3. No one wants to feel hopeless, but why is brokenness as Christians actually a good thing according to verse 7? In difficult circumstances, where does Paul turn for hope?

4. Have you ever found yourself in a situation like the one Paul described in verses 8-9? If so, share about that time. What did you learn about God and your relationship with Him through that season?

5. Paul believed that God would see His children through whatever suffering they faced, and that as a result, they need not lose heart. How have you seen this to be true in your own life?

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:15-18.

6. According to verse 15, what is the result of brokenness in the lives of God's people? How should this change the way we view brokenness and the way we speak about it with others?

7. What are the promises for God's people in these verses? How do these promises help guard us from the temptation to lose heart as we live for Christ every day?

8. What are the afflictions of this life preparing us for (v. 17)? Why should this cause us to cry out to the Lord even more?

READ PSALM 73:21-28.

9. How do these verses relate to the teaching of Paul in 2 Corinthians 4?

10. What important truths about God did the psalmist affirm? How do these speak directly to our despair?