

PSALMS

A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families For the week of July 23, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- What was a favorite hiding place for you as a child?

Psalm 32

Covered

A Maskil of David.

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*
⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*
⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.
⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah*
⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.
¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

- Some commentators believe that Psalm 32 reveals the more than year-long process through which David—by the ministry of Nathan the prophet—came to true repentance after committing adultery with Bathsheba and murdering her husband. David tells of his experience on both sides of confession.
- In what ways does David describe the blessedness of God's pardon in vv.1-2?
- David's describes what happens when we do not confess our sin (3-4). What effect does it have?
- What does David mean that God's hand was heavy upon him (4)? Have you ever felt this way?
- What does David do in his condition (5)? What is God's response?
- David finds that being forgiven by God leads to freedom (6-7). What is the difference between hiding *from* God and hiding *in* God?
- Who does the singing and shouting in v.7?
- God forgives us and protects us, and His grace extends even farther in vv.8-10. Which of the promises in this section is most meaningful to you today?
- How does God tell us to respond to His forgiveness, protection, and care? (9-10)
- Have you ever been stubborn with the Lord or with others? Why?
- Who rejoices and shouts in v.11? Compare this verse to v.3. What changed?

- **Psalm 32 ultimately points us to Jesus Christ. Jesus was uncovered on the Cross, subject to our shame, bearing our guilt, and the heavy hand of God. God suffered to bear covering, our atonement for sin, our robe of righteousness. When did you first forsake your hiding and trust the gracious covering Jesus provides?**
- **Does this Psalm raise any questions for you that you would like to ask the group and bring to the Lord in prayer?**

- **Read the Psalm together again, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.**

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