
SUMMER PSALMS

SWARTZ FBC LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE



SCRIPTURE: Psalm 13

SERIES: Summer Psalms

TITLE: When It's Hard to Sing

BIG IDEA: Although seasons of struggle will come, we bring our honest prayers before the Lord and rejoice in His love for His people.

TEXT

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

13 How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

²How long must I take counsel in my soul

and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;

light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

⁴lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"

lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵But I have trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶I will sing to the LORD,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Head / Heart / Hands

- What does this text teach me?
- What does it tell me to feel?
- What does it tell me to do?

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1. GOD DESIRES HONESTY

Application Question: What have I neglected to bring before the Lord?

- Why is it difficult to pray sometimes?
- Do you ever feel like there are things you need to keep to yourself and not bring to God in prayer?
 - o Why?
- Read the first verse of “What a friend we have in Jesus.”

*What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!*

- o What line jumps out to you the most?
- How does honesty in prayer affect us?

³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
⁴lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

2. STRUGGLE PRODUCES PROXIMITY

Application Question: Are your struggles producing proximity or distance?

- How does God use struggle to knit us to Him?
- How does prayer play a part in this?
- How does singing play a part in this?
- Why is it our nature at times to run away instead of lean into the Lord during struggles?

⁵ But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

3. GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN CHANGING OUR PERSPECTIVE THAN CHANGING OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

Application Question: Lord, in what way does my perspective need to change?

- What is in our power to change – our perspective or our circumstances?
- Why would the Lord be more interested in our perspective than our circumstances?
- Is our comfort God's top priority for us? (No)
 - o If not, then what is? (Him being glorified through us)
- What are practical ways to change our perspective when circumstances won't?