

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 9, 2020

Passage: Psalm 124

Memory Passage: Psalm 124:

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Psalm 124.** As you may recall, Psalms 120-134 are known as the “Psalms of Ascent.” Why is this? What occasion led the people to sing these “songs?”
- (b) Focusing on verses 1 & 2, what point is the Psalmist making?
- (c) “LORD” in this Psalm comes from the Hebrew יהוה (right to left: J-H-V-H) often written Jehovah or Yahweh. The divine name refers to God in His covenant-keeping role/relationship. How do we see this as the appropriate name for our God here?
- (d) Pilgrims sang this song going up to Jerusalem as a way to *prepare for worship*. How might you / your family use this in a similar way?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Psalm 124.** Some ancient authors believe David wrote this Psalm as a result of the situation in 2 Sam. 5:17-21. In comparing both passages, what language do you see that lends to that conclusion?
- (b) What relationship does the repetition in verses 1 & 2 have with the repetition in verses 3-5? What do you see as the purpose or point in the repeated use of “would have...?” What is the implication of “would have?”
- (c) What imagery are we to get from “flood,” “torrent,” “raging waters?”

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Psalm 124.** This is considered to be the most communal of all Psalms of Ascent. What words/phrases make this so? Considering this Psalm, how communal should the Christian life be?
- (b) Verse 6 draws a clear line between “us” and “them” (their). What must we take away from this Psalm in that respect?
- (c) “Blessed” in v. 6 means “to kneel” as an act of adoration, or to “salute from your knees.” How might this affect your thinking whenever you read Scripture that tells us to “Bless the LORD?” **Psa. 16:7; 34:1, 63:4; 66:8; 103:1-2** When did you last literally “Bless the LORD” from your knees (health permitting)?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Psalm 124.** Verse 7 - “we have escaped (A) ... the snare (B) ... the snare (B) ... we have escaped (A)” is an example of a chiasmus – “a poetic structure (A, B, B, A) that gives the impression of completeness.” What sense or understanding do you get from this chiasmus?
- (b) Does the writer give any indication of how or who broke the snare? Does it matter? Explain.
- (c) John Gill wrote that God’s children “are weak and unable to resist their foes; and worthless in themselves, like sparrows” while “Satan, and wicked men under his influence, are like fowlers who lay snares for them, to draw them into sin, into immorality and error, in order to bring them to ruin and destruction.” How do you view your ability to avoid the snares? How should you view our ability? See 1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Tim. 2:26

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Psalm 124.** Thinking again about the communal aspect of the Christian life, how should v. 8 affect our time when gathered as a body? Do you consider your attendance as a contribution to others’ Christian walk? Should you?
- (b) Yes, God is *your* Savior, but He is also *our* Savior. How can focusing on this adjust your fellowship and worship?
- (c) What does it mean that our help is in “the name” of the LORD? Is it significant to include “who made heaven and earth?” Perhaps contact a fellow BCC member and discuss your response to these two.

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*The LORD our Help*