



## Prayer As Relationship With God

Teaching Tool Text: Psalm 73

Series: The Beautiful Life (Sermon on the Mount)

Date: 06/20/10

### LEADER NOTE

This is a discussion guide that is based on the same topic of the Sunday night sermon at Joshua House. It has been created to be a *tool* to help you teach and facilitate discussion in your group, not a *rule* to constrict you. So feel free to adapt it to fit your personality and discussion style as you see fit. You may want to add verses or skip questions as you adapt it to fit what your needs are. Make it your own.

### SUNDAY NIGHT SYNOPSIS

*[Leader: this section is here to remind you of the direction of the weekend message.]*

Jonathan spoke this weekend on worry and how that reveals what you really care about by looking at Matthew 6:19-34. As followers of Jesus, the Kingdom is to be of our utmost concern. We continued with Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount to see what it means to 'Seek first the Kingdom of God.'

### TONIGHT'S BIG IDEA

We all have moments where we don't see things clearly and we worry about things that should not have the power to consume us. Psalm 73 reveals some helpful insight as to how to reorient our lives so that we are concerned with God and what he ultimately cares about.

### GETTING STARTED

Read Lamentations 3:19-23 (the author is expressing deep lament over the fall over Jerusalem and the oppression of God's people):

<sup>19</sup> I remember my affliction and my wandering,  
the bitterness and the gall.

<sup>20</sup> I well remember them,  
and my soul is downcast within me.

<sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind  
and therefore I have hope:

<sup>22</sup> Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.

<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

**Spend some time sharing ways that God has shown his faithfulness to you this week.**



## GETTING INTO THE TEXT

### Text Read Psalm 73

1. In the opening verse of this Psalm we hear the truth about God and his relationship to his people, how does this verse explain it?
2. The psalmist's life experience seems to mock this idea. What was going on that made him so upset according to verses 3-5? (*verses 3-5 He sees those that don't even care about God enjoying riches and seem to be free from pain*). How does he begin to compare his situation and how does this affect him according to verses 2-3, 13, 21-22 ? (*He feels that his life is filled with great pain, that perhaps God doesn't care, and he has kept his heart pure in vain*).
3. Where do you struggle with comparing your life with other people's? How has it affected your life with God? What has helped you get out of your funk?
4. What changes the psalmist situation (verse 16-17)? (*He enters into God's presence, he remembers what is true—about his life and those that do not have/want God in their life*).
5. What does it mean to enter God's presence? How/why did this change the psalmist's situation? How/why can his presence bring change in our lives?
6. What are some ways that you can make space in your life to enter into God's presence, especially when you are struggling in this way?
7. Can you honestly make the claim that verse 25 initiates? How could you move toward God being the ultimate strength of your heart? Consider what's holding you back.
8. Take some time to consider/share what you possess in God, that you did not possess before you had relationship with Him.
9. Ministry Time:  
Read verse 28 again. Break down into groups, and share your story of coming "to be near God". Tell them to share some of the most wonderful deeds that God has accomplished in their lives. (Note: it could be a story of rescue from sin or sickness, a story of great protection—where one is raised in a healthy home, etc.) Close your time by praying that God would make us a people that does not just compare our lives with others, speak our words of doubt, but speaks constantly of God's wonderful work in and through us.