

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of December 10, 2017

This Week's Focus: The Psalms of Advent: *Trusting*

This Week's Text: Psalm 40

"I rejoice in the sovereignty of God because he wields in it all things to preserve himself as my greatest treasure." **John Piper**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- How is Psalms like the other collected books of Scripture, and how is it uniquely different? What are some of your favorite Psalms and how do they resonate with you?
- Discuss the three types of Hebrew parallelism – *Synonymous* (Psalm 120:2), *Antithetical* (Psalm 1:6; 25:3), *Synthetic* (Psalm 28:1-2; 42:1) – and the importance of understanding this literary device as we read Scripture.
- Psalm 40 can be divided into two parts. Compare and contrast the themes of verses 1-11 and verses 12-17.
- What does it mean to actively and confidently "wait on the Lord"? What is the "miry bog" and "pit of destruction" that David references in verses 1-2?
- Why does David call the person who trusts in God "blessed"? Reference verse 4. Discuss why God is worthy of our trust. Why is this an important aspect of his character?
- Why does God allow us to experience – and sometimes direct us into – trials? Reference verse 4 and 2 Corinthians 1:8-10. Are you currently experiencing difficulties (emotional, physical, spiritual, financial, relational, etc.) that you need prayer and help with?
- Share times that you have experienced the joy of God's protection, provision, and deliverance from a hopeless situation. Reference verse 3.
- What is the great enemy that we all need rescue from? Reference verses 12-13. Discuss how this Psalm (as well as this season of Advent) points to our rescue and to Jesus, our great Rescuer. Reference verses 6-8, Hebrews 10:4-7.

- Read verses 3, 5, 9-10. How does our trust in God's sovereignty and praise of his goodness testify to God's glory? What are some practical ways we can share the hope and comfort of the gospel in our communities during this Advent season?