



# SERMON PREP GUIDE

February 10, 2019

## READING GOD'S WORD

Psalm 42

## DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD

1. What is the imagery of the first couple verses?
2. What phrase is repeated in both verses 3 and 10?
3. What is the reaction of the psalmist in verse 4 to these taunts? Who is making these accusations?
4. Which verse mirrors verse 5?
5. How do the author describe God throughout this psalm?

## APPLYING GOD'S WORD

1. The first few verses set the tone for our psalm this week; the psalmist desperately yearning for the living God. He describes a contrast in his emotions in verses 3 and 4; what is it? How has looking back and recalling the joy of the LORD helped you in times of depression?
2. In what ways can we hope and wait upon the LORD in dark times?
3. How does our hope in the Lord shape our everyday conversations with neighbors, co-workers, and friends?
4. Psalm 43 is an extension of the psalmist's plea to God. Read it and discuss how it parallels our psalm this week. In both psalms, praise and joy are associated with seeking the presence of the LORD. Therefore, seek His presence together – both by praising Him and praying for one another.

## PRAYING THE WORD

- » God, we thank You that You have created us with a full range of emotions to express ourselves and pour out our souls.
- » In our highs and in our lows, we can claim the truth that You, Lord, never leave us nor forsake us. By day, You command Your steadfast love and at night Your song is with us.
- » Holy Spirit, in times of despair, help us to recall the joy of Your salvation (Ps. 51:12). Send out Your light and Your truth to lead us (Psalm 43:3).
- » May we lift our hands in praise to You today knowing with full assurance that we will again praise You. Despite our circumstances, You will always be praised.