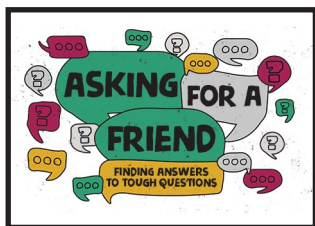


MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP GUIDES



**"WILL MY LIFE EVER
GET BETTER?"**

MAY 10, 2020



“Will My Life Ever Get Better?”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Existential questions = what we tend to ask ourselves when the surface meaning of _____ is stripped away, when _____ and expectations are shattered, and when we confront human mortality.

Psalms _____ is probably not one that many of us read, much less memorize, or be a _____ - _____ passage... (note Psalm 88)

God chose to include this Psalm in His perfect and holy Word for an important reason = there are times this is just what life _____.

1. When Life Feels Like it _____ Get Better

- A. Worldwide _____.
- B. Feeling in the _____ (note Psalm 88:6, 8b).
- C. _____ pain (note Psalm 88:15a).
- D. Relationship _____ (note Psalm 88:8a, 18).
- E. _____ (note Psalm 88:15).

God knows that in a broken world filled with broken people, some of life's chapters (sometimes _____) feel like Psalm 88.

2. Why We Can _____ Life Will Be Better (note Psalm 89)

Psalms 88 and 89, side-by-side, show us the _____ of the Christian life.

Psalm 89 _____ you and me that:

- A. God's perfect love is in _____ (note Psalm 89:10-12).
- B. God's perfect love is sometimes _____ for us to see (note Psalm 89:46) - Sometimes we see evidence of Romans _____. Sometimes we don't see it, and may never see it _____. But faith means even when I can't see it, I understand God is always working for my good, and in eternity, it will make _____.
- C. God's perfect love _____ the conclusion—all Psalm 88's, prayed long enough, turn into _____. God has already used _____ in our lives for good. Note Romans 8:18; 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Revelation 21:1-4.

Tough questions do have answers:

When you feel like life will never get better:

- _____ Psalm 88.
- _____ Psalm 89 to yourself:
- *I choose to not _____; God is with me.*
- *I choose to not _____; God is in control.*
- *I choose not to _____; God is God and I'm not, and God is good.*

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too!

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU ARE SECRETLY PLEASED THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO NOW THAT YOU ARE PHYSICALLY DISTANCING?

1. PASTOR TOM SHARED WITH US A QUESTION THAT MANY OF US ASK WHEN WE GO THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES: **"WILL MY LIFE EVER GET BETTER?"** IS THIS A QUESTION THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING LATELY?

2. PASTOR TOM EXPLAINED THAT WHILE PSALM 88 ISN'T OUR "GO-TO PASSAGE...THERE ARE TIMES THIS IS JUST WHAT LIFE FEELS LIKE." **READ THROUGH PSALM 88.** WHICH PHRASES OR WORDS STRIKE YOU MOST?

3. IN CONTRAST, PSALM 89 ASSURES US THAT "GOD'S PERFECT LOVE IS IN CHARGE...SOMETIMES HARD TO SEE...AND CONTROLS THE CONCLUSION." **READ PSALM 89:1-18 AND 46-52.** WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE OPENING POEM AND THIS CLOSING POEM?

4. HOW DO YOU RELATE TO PSALM 89? HAS PRAISE BEEN A PART OF YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU ARE STRUGGLING, OR LIFE IS DIFFICULT?

5. PASTOR TOM REMINDED US THAT "GOD HAS ALREADY USED PAIN IN OUR LIVES FOR GOOD." READ **ROMANS 8:18, 1 PETER 5:10, 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18 AND REVELATION 21:1-4.** HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD TURN YOUR PAIN INTO SOMETHING GOOD?

6. TAKE TIME AS A GROUP TO SHARE GOOD THINGS YOU HAVE OBSERVED, EXPERIENCED, AND HEARD ABOUT SINCE THE PANDEMIC BECAME OUR CURRENT REALITY. HOW MIGHT YOU PRAISE GOD DURING THIS TIME?

7. PRAY TOGETHER USING PHRASES FROM PSALM 88 OR 89 OR THE THREE PHRASES PASTOR TOM USED AT THE END OF HIS MESSAGE.

DAY 1: 1 THESS. 1

DAY 2: 1 THESS. 2

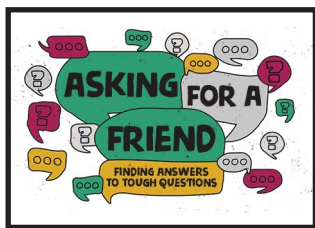
DAY 3: 1 THESS. 3

DAY 4: 1 THESS. 4

DAY 5: 1 THESS. 5

**PERSONAL
GUIDE**





“Will My Life Ever Get Better?”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Existential questions = what we tend to ask ourselves when the surface meaning of life is stripped away, when routines and expectations are shattered, and when we confront human mortality.

Psalm 88 is probably not one that many of us read, much less memorize, or be a go-to passage... (note Psalm 88)

God chose to include this Psalm in His perfect and holy Word for an important reason = there are times this is just what life feels like.

1. When Life Feels Like it May Never Get Better

- A. Worldwide pandemic.
- B. Feeling in the dark (note Psalm 88:6, 8b).
- C. Chronic pain (note Psalm 88:15a).
- D. Relationship conflicts (note Psalm 88:8a, 18).
- E. Loneliness (note Psalm 88:15).

God knows that in a broken world filled with broken people, some of life's chapters (sometimes long ones) feel like Psalm 88.

2. Why We Can Know Life Will Be Better (note Psalm 89)

Psalm 88 and 89, side-by-side, show us the paradox of the Christian life.

Psalm 89 assures you and me that:

- A. God's perfect love is in charge (note Psalm 89:10-12).
- B. God's perfect love is sometimes hard for us to see (note Psalm 89:46) - Sometimes we see evidence of Romans 8:28. Sometimes we don't see it, and may never see it in this life. But faith means even when I can't see it, I understand God is always working for my good, and in eternity, it will make perfect sense.
- C. God's perfect love controls the conclusion—all Psalm 88's, prayed long enough, turn into praise. God has already used pain in our lives for good. Note Romans 8:18; 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Revelation 21:1-4.

Tough questions do have answers:

When you feel like life will never get better:

- Pray Psalm 88.
- Preach Psalm 89 to yourself:
- *I choose to not fear; God is with me.*
- *I choose to not doubt; God is in control.*
- *I choose not to despair; God is God and I'm not, and God is good.*

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too!