

**Life Group Guide Psalm 22 “The Suffering Man and the Blessings of His People”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Nov 5 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Nov 12**

Icebreaker Question

Have you ever been a witness to a crime or legal hearing? How difficult was it to watch this moment and then to recount what you saw? Was it important that you served as a witness?

Main Message

In our moments of suffering, rejection, and disappointment, God proves Himself holy, near, and powerful to save just as He did at Christ’s cross so that His life with us through Jesus may spread to those who do not yet love Him.

Pastor Pete’s Sermon Outline

- I. Why has God forsaken the Messiah and me? 1–2.**
- II. The holy God lives on the praises of His people even as the Messiah and I face the worst of mankind and the tender care of God 3–18.**
 - a. God cared for the fathers 3–5.
 - b. God cares for the Messiah in His difficult state 6–18.
 - i. Men despise the Messiah 6–8.
 - ii. God brought the Messiah forth 9–11.
 - iii. Enemies surround and afflict the Messiah 12–18.
- III. The very near God helps the Messiah and me to worship Him forever for the benefit of a people who will be created, the church 19–31.**
 - a. God saves the Messiah from those who afflict Him 19–21.
 - b. The Messiah will recount God’s name to His brothers in the assembly of His people 22–25.
 - c. The peoples of the earth will seek refuge in the Messiah, God’s King, and declare His righteousness and what He has done everywhere 26–31.

Psa 22:1–5

Read Psa 22: 1–2: Observation

1. Before the first verse of Psa 22, we have a brief text called a superscription that is still part of the Psalm. Whose name is listed in this superscription?
2. In 22:1, how does the Psalmist (the author) describe what God has done to him? What is the distance between them?
3. In 22:1, how often has the Psalmist cried to God? What was God’s seeming response?
4. How does the author describe God in v. 3?
5. According to vs. 4-5, how has God treated his people in the past?

Interpretation

6. How do verses 3-5 help us understand and endure the feelings of being abandoned by God described in vs. 1-2? Has God ever truly abandoned us? How do we know?

Application

7. What does God want from believers in seasons of silence? How can other believers help during those times? Who does God want you to help? How? Be specific.

**Life Group Guide Psalm 22 “The Suffering Man and the Blessings of His People”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Nov 5 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Nov 12**

Psa 22:6–18

Read Psa 22:3–18: Observation

8. In 22:6–8, how does the author describe himself and his current situation?
9. In 22:9–11, is God near or far from the author? Does God feel near or far?
10. In 22:12–18, what metaphors does the Psalmist use to describe his situation as he seeks help?

Interpretation

11. The New Testament authors are absolutely convinced that Psalm 22 describes the suffering of Jesus the Messiah. In what ways did Jesus suffer the things described in Psalm 22:1–18? Where is the language here found in the New Testament? What do we learn from this?

Application

12. How can the Scriptures help a believer in Christ during a season of silence? How might Old Testament narrative, poetic, and wisdom books help him to encounter God? How might the New Testament’s Gospel accounts, Acts, and epistles (letters) help as well? What part of the Bible is your “go-to” section when God seems distant but needed? Be specific.
-

Psa 22:19–31

Read Psa 22:19–31: Observation

13. In 22:19–21, what does the Psalmist do in light of his plight? What metaphors does he use?
14. In 22:22–23, what does the Psalmist promise? What does he call fellow believers to do?
15. In 22:24, how does this verse answer (or inform) 22:1–2? What does the Psalmist now see?
16. In 22:25–26, amongst whom will the Psalmist praise God and fulfill his vows?
17. In 22:27–28, how much of the world will respond rightly to God’s kingship?
18. In 22:29–31, what will everyone do? What will be told to the younger generations? What kind of people will hear what God has done?

Interpretation

19. What does this text, especially 22:24, teach us about God appearing absent in our difficult times? If this chapter really is about Jesus, how does that change the way we think about God’s presence when we suffer?
20. According to Psalm 22:19–31, when we remember God’s promise to save us and the gift of his presence, what does God call us to do next? What kind of vows should a Christian make and not make? What does this passage teach us about how we should commit ourselves to Christ’s cause?

Application

21. Please memorize Psa 22:23–24: “You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.”
 22. How do you help proclaim God’s name in the church, in missions, and to the next generation now? If you are not being obedient to God in this, how can you begin to follow Jesus in obedience in this area? Give some practical suggestions to help others in your group.
-