

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Psalm 130

Ice Breaker: What's an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when you had to wait for something you really wanted. Was it hard? Why was it so hard?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is a Psalm of Ascent? When would these "songs" have been sung and how does that help us interpret them?
2. **Read:** Psalm 130. What are your first impressions of the Psalm? What is the structure of the Psalm? What words/phrases stand out to you?
3. Why do you think the Psalm begins with a cry for mercy? Why do you think the Psalmist uses phrases like "out of the depths" and "the voice of my pleas" to describe his cry to the Lord? What does it sound like when you cry out to the Lord? What words or expressions do you use in your cry?
4. In verse 3, the Psalmist asks the question of every Christian: "If God is all good and all holy and we are sinful, how can we stand before the Lord?" Have you considered the true problem in your life lately: sin before God? What are ways that you try to hide from your sin?
5. What is the Psalmist's solution to our sin in verse 4? Read Romans 3:21-26. How does Paul answer the question of forgiveness for past sins?
6. At the end of verse 4, the Psalmist says that forgiveness from God produces fear. What does it mean to fear God as Christians? How does this impact our fight against sin?
7. The Psalmist calls his heart to wait for the Lord and hope in God's word. How do verses 1-4 inform verse 5-6? What does it mean to wait more than the watchman for the Lord? How do we wait for the Lord?
8. Read verse 7-8 again. What does "plentiful redemption" mean? Read Ephesians 1:7-8. What does "plentiful" mean? How do you feel when you read those words? Does the Lord's forgiveness feel abundant to you?
9. How can we apply the forgiveness of the Lord to ourselves? How might we share the Lord's forgiveness with others?