

Beauty in a Time of Pain

Small Group Bible Study

Psalm 27 New International Version (NIV)

Of David.

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

⁶ Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;

at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷ Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.

⁸ My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

⁹ Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.

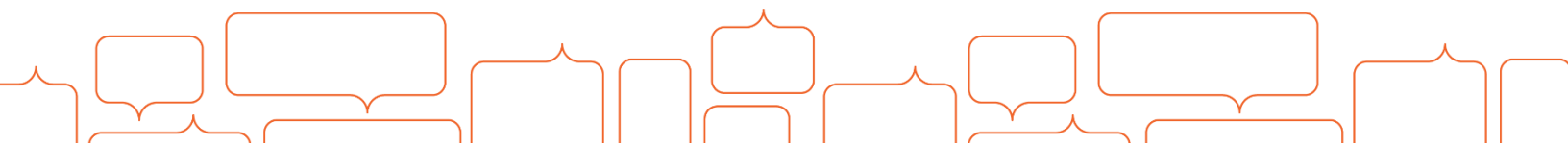
¹⁰ Though my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.

¹¹ Teach me your way, Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.

¹² Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.

¹³ I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.



Beauty in a Time of Pain

Small Group Bible Study

Introduce

Psalm 27 is traditionally attributed to David during his flight from King Saul, who was trying to kill him. His lyrics were a personal cry to God that later became part of the worship book used communally by the people of God. David led the way with his desperation, humility, and confidence in God, and even today we can relate to his longing for beauty in the midst of pain and fear.

Read Psalm 27

Discuss

1. **What is the psalmist's desire in verse 4? Why?**
The psalmist desires safety in a time of danger. He centers safety on being close to God in the temple and gazing "on the beauty of the Lord." Out of all that he could ask from God, why is this the one thing that he seeks?
2. **What does it look like to wait for the Lord?**
Waiting for the Lord is not passive. It's active mindfulness toward God. How does the psalmist wait for the Lord? What does it look like for us to actively pay attention to God in a time of trouble?

Apply

1. **Name it and pray it.**
Name what is troubled and ugly around you. Bring those things to God in prayer. Then, pay attention to God by naming what is beautiful and asking God to meet you in that beauty.
2. **Share beauty.**
Ask God, "Who in my life is fearful, isolated, or sad?" Invite the people who come to mind to "gaze on the beauty of the Lord" by studying this psalm with you.

Conclude

Pray with each other.

Psalm 27 structure



For tips on leading a small group online, [watch this!](#)

