

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of January 23-29, 2022

## “SEARCHING FOR LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What “bad news” have you experienced or heard recently? How did you or the people involved respond to it?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Psalms 88

1. List out some of the words that the psalmist uses that indicate sadness or trouble. What hopeful words or phrases do you see? What do you sense is the situation of the psalmist?
2. What kind of “masks” do people wear? Why do we wear them? According to Psalm 88, should we go around acting like everything is ok? What does this psalm tell us to do? How does a Christian honestly go about it?
3. One of the things to remember about the psalms is that they are intended primarily for worship. How does Psalms 88 teach us how to worship God in times of suffering?
4. The psalmist questioned the Lord’s fairness and seems to blame God for his pain. Do you agree or disagree with what he said?
5. One of the important lessons of this psalm is this: The psalmist endured pain and suffering, yet he kept on praying. How do you explain the fact that some believers experience ongoing pain and suffering despite their prayers? Did the Lord promise us an easy road?
6. Psalms 88 shows us how Heman the Ezrahite prayed. Can you identify a few of the ways he did that and what we can learn from him?

7. Take time to share some struggles and disappointments that you are going through right now. They may be more long-term and in the background but they still weigh on you or they may be a central focus of your life. Bring some of these before your group and pray for each other.

### 8. NEXT STEPS

- I will pray no matter what circumstance I am in.
- I will be honest with God because he knows what I am going through.
- I will seek to respond in worship for God deserves it.

*Don't forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for peace and a heart that depends on God in the midst of turmoil.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

January 24 Psalms 88  
January 25 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18  
January 26 John 13:18-22; Psalms 41:9-12  
January 27 Psalms 107:4-9  
January 28 Psalms 32  
January 29 Matthew 26:17-30  
January 30 Psalms 8:1-9