

WEEK 6: WHEN I AM DOUBTING GOD'S PLAN

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

Listen and subscribe to the Mariners Life Group Leader Podcast.

If you missed the weekend message or want to review specific points, you can always watch, listen, and find bulletin notes online at marinerschurch.org/messages.

MAIN POINT

For centuries, a major question has baffled and frustrated people—why do the wicked prosper? It seems that bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people. It does not make sense. Asaph brings this struggle—this doubt—to God, even wondering if he “kept his heart pure for nothing.” In the end, he declares God’s presence to be his good, and he got there by looking forward to his eternal destiny (verse 17) and looking up to God as his delight (verse 25-26). Instead of looking around, he looked up and forward.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

Share about a time that things went sideways, that a plan didn't exactly work out. Was it a total disaster? Did your backup plan actually end up being awesome?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read Psalm 73

How does Psalm 73 open in verse 1? Given that opening, what is surprising about Asaph's confession in verses 2-3?

Verses 16-17 turn on a single word: “until.” What had Asaph been trying to do, how was it going, and then what changed?

What does Asaph say he desires in verses 25-26? What may fail, and what will not?

Compare verse 1 with verse 28. How has Asaph's statement about God's goodness changed by the end?

**LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE OF GOD'S
WORD IN THE WORLD**

Much of Psalm 73 reads like Asaph scrolling a feed—seeing others' easy lives, well-fed bodies, and luxurious living. Where do you see people doing this today? What happens to us when we do this?

**LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S WORD
TO YOUR LIFE**

In verse 15, Asaph refused to broadcast his doubt because it “would have betrayed your people.” When you endure difficult circumstances or seasons of life, do you consider how others (especially children or other young people) may be learning from how you handle it? What might people learn from watching you endure difficulty?

Look back at a difficult season when you may have doubted God's presence or goodness. What did your prayer look like? Who did you turn to? What happened to your faith?