



ALL SAINTS
PRESBYTERIAN

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“Praying the Psalms in Hope and Joy” | Rev. Craig Chapman | September 2, 2018

Psalm 126

When the Lord restore the fortunes of
Zion,
we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for
them.”
³ The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.
⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!
⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Intro Question

Psalm 126 (and many of the Psalms) are composed and later sung when Israel was in the midst of trouble, calling out to God to restore their fortunes. As a Psalm of ascent, it was sung as the Israelites made their yearly trip to Jerusalem for Passover.

1. How do you avoid being overwhelmed by difficult situations?
2. How do you find hope and joy amidst repeated trial?

Background

Craig said that Psalm 126 reminds Israel who they are and whose they are by calling them to remember the past and practice the future. Read Romans 8:18-28 and Luke 15:11-24

Discuss:

1. Whose are you and what’s been done for you? How, according to this Psalm and the other scriptures read on Sunday (Romans 8:18-28 and Luke 15:11-24) does this shape your identity?
2. Are you glad in the present tense (v.3)? How do you experience present joy in all circumstances?
3. Does the selection from Romans 8 describe you and your attitude? If not, what can you meditate upon?
4. One of the ways to “practice the future” is celebration. What are some ways we can and should be celebrating as a community?

Conclusion/Application

Craig closed saying that “God has met us where he finds us and he is not finished with us yet.” Father, hold us in the hope of future glory, in the assurance of what has already been accomplished for us on our behalf; give us eyes to see your world and live our lives now in it with joy.

By: Erin Holcomb