

HOPE

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

READ Psalm 13

SHARE words, phrases, truths that stuck out to you; any questions you have; new insights.

DISCUSS the passage together.

1/ First talk about the concept of Advent (as a *waiting* season) versus how our culture usually celebrates the Christmas season. How is it comforting to know that Advent is a time of lament and waiting and expectation, than happiness and mirth and instant gratification?

2/ There are three movements to this Psalm: 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6. How would you characterize each?

3/ Talk about vv. 1-2. Do you feel the same liberty to cry out to God like David does? How can you make these two verses your own?

4/ Discuss vv. 3-4. What can we learn about prayer from these two verses?

5/ Discuss vv. 5-6. How do you think David gets to a place of confidence like this?

6/ Read the first 4 verses, and consider as a group how Jesus might have prayed this prayer. How does the life of Jesus deepen this psalm for you?

7/ Steadfast love (*hesed*) and salvation (*yeshua*) are what gives David his confidence in v. 5. Jesus is the fullest display of God's *hesed* and *salvation* of v. 5 - Jesus is even *named* salvation (Jesus is the name form of the hebrew word here for salvation). Discuss how focusing on Jesus helps you sing, even in hardship this Advent.

APPLY the text to your life (these questions from Redeemer NYC might help).

1/ How can I praise him?

2/ How can I confess my sins on the basis of this text?

3/ If this is really true, what wrong behavior, what harmful emotions or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?

4/ What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?

5/ God, why are you telling me this today?

PRAY together for the things you just shared, and also for anything else in your life.