

Beacon Church — from Sunday 11 March 2018

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS FOR CONNECT GROUPS FROM PSALMS 130-132, ESPECIALLY PS. 131

Please select a few questions to consider — do not try to cover everything in one evening. Thanks.

Honouring the Word; welcoming the Spirit... “There is a God; and it’s not me.”

Read Psalm 130

- What is the mood of the Psalmist’s prayer? What is her situation?
- What is the Psalmist confident about – expressed both in his prayer, and again in the exhortation to others in verses 7-8?
- What is the purpose of forgiveness according to verse 4?
- If you think the group can cope with a bit of grammar, consider what tense are the verbs throughout this psalm? What is the effect of that choice?
- Read verses 5-6. What habit is the psalmist describing? On Sunday it was proposed that ‘waiting on the LORD’ is about lingering in his presence and being fully present with him. Discuss.

Read Psalm 131: 1

- Again, consider what tense the verbs are in this psalm. Which ones are in present tense? Which in past perfect? Any in the future tense? Why is this?
- Is verse one a request from God, a declaration about God, a declaration about the psalmist, or some other kind of speech?
- How often do you speak to God in this speech form? If rarely, why not?
- ‘LORD, my heart is not proud,’ is a declaration that I do not see myself as better than others. Discuss
- ‘My eyes are not haughty,’ is a declaration that I do not look on others as inferior to me. Discuss
- On Sunday we were reminded that the Bible commends both the repentance of Psalm 130 and the confidence of Psalm 131. What would we lose if we only use one or other of these forms of talking with God our Father?
- There’s a fine line between confidence and over-confidence. On Sunday it was proposed that the most common error is to lack confidence and we were all urged to aim to grow in confidence based on God’s word. As we set about growing in confidence, we can protect ourselves by asking a trusted friend to tell us if we become over-confident. Discuss.

Pride is a barrier to meeting with God because God opposes the proud

- A list of self-measures was given which are indicators of humility or pride. Can people remember how each area might reveal pride or humility?
 - The irritation measure
 - The grace (honouring others) measure
 - The joy measure
 - The honesty measure
 - The presence (of God) measure
 - The confidence measure
- “Good pride is pride in the idea God had when he made me.” Discuss.

Read Psalm 131:2

- Here God is pictured as a mother. We are pictured as a contented child in its mother’s arms. What has the psalmist done to become that contented child enjoying Mother-God’s embrace? See Ps. 130:5-6?
- How about using these two psalms – 130 and 131 – regularly in prayer to slow down and be still and contented, lingering in God’s presence, during the next week.