



Sermon Discussion Guide – February 17, 2019

SERIES – ROOTS: *Facing Times Of Drought*

TITLE - *“Facing Loneliness?”*

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT), Psalm 31

SUMMARY - The Bible gives us wonderful examples of cultivating a deeper faith when we face spiritual drought. It is important to grow deep roots of faith so that when we are running on empty we still find hope and confidence in God’s faithfulness. The deeper we find our roots the more likely we will still produce fruit in times of drought. This week we look at the story of David as he went from being one of the most popular people in Israel to being rejected, avoided, and alone. We see God’s faithfulness and support during times of loneliness. Deep roots of faith allow us to push past ourselves and focus on the needs of others.

DAILY STUDY & PRAYER

Read / Reflect / Respond

(*READ* the verse, take a moment to *REFLECT* on its meaning, *RESPOND* by writing down some thoughts and praying)

Monday - Hebrews 13:5 *“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.””*

Tuesday - 1 Samuel 12:22 *“For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.”*

Wednesday - Romans 8:38–39 *“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Thursday - 1 Peter 5:7 *“Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.”*

Friday - John 14:18 Jesus says *“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Saturday - Galatians 6:2 *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*

GROUP DISCUSSION

(*This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss or supplement with your own materials*)

Open with Prayer

1. What is something you remember from the sermon that stood out to you or never heard before?
2. Have you ever faced paralyzing loneliness before? Or someone close to you? In your opinion, what were the causes? How did you get through to the other side of it?
3. Do you believe that God is with you always? How can we know? Read and discuss John 14:15-24
4. How can focusing on the needs of others help us when we are feeling lonely? Why does that work sometimes? Does it work all the time?

Close with prayer requests and prayer

NEXT STEPS (Optional for group discussion)

1. TEMPERATURE GAUGE – How am I doing when it comes to loneliness? Are my roots deep enough to handle it?
2. RESPOND – How is the Lord calling me to respond? In confession and repentance? Prayer for help and guidance? Seeking out a confidant or listening ear? Take a moment to write down one action step.
3. PRACTICE – What is one way that you can incorporate or practice deepening your roots this week?



Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. *Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group!*
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group during the next series. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives?
- ✓ **EVALUATE** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Review the discussion guide and sermon notes for this week. You can also view the sermon from our website, www.faithunitedepc.org. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group.
- Feel free to adapt the format as needed. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Next Steps section or add additional Scripture and resources. Remember this is only a guide and you don't have to complete all of it. It is a tool to promote good discussion. The goal is good discussion not necessarily getting through every question.
- The questions with Bible verses associated with them are there to encourage Bible literacy. So encourage different people to open their Bibles and read selected verses if they are willing and able.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.