

DISCUSSION GUIDE
COMMUNION: Part 6, FORSAKEN

Text: Psalm 22

Warming Up

1. Describe an outdoor celebration you have been part of. Location? Purpose? Participants?
2. Read Zechariah 9:9 and Luke 19:28-44. Describe how you imagine Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem.

Digging In

Read Psalm 22:1-11

1. Psalm 22 has contrasting thoughts of despair and hope. Verses 1-2 are despair. Verses 3-6 are hope. Verses 7-8 are despair. Verses 9-11 are hope.
2. What might have prompted David to write these things?
3. Why would Jesus choose to quote this Psalm from the cross? If he quoted the entire Psalm how might that change how you read the synoptic gospel accounts?
4. Have you ever felt the despair expressed here? How did you find hope to trust in the Lord?

Read Psalm 22: 12-21

1. The pattern of despair and hope are repeated but expanded. Who might David have in mind as the strong bulls, roaring lions, or dogs?
2. There was certainly much more that happened in the time Jesus hung on the cross than recorded. The gospel writers picked up on several scripture passages to help their readers understand what was happening. How does reading this section of Psalm 22 help you understand what Jesus was experiencing?
3. The request in verses 19-21 is for deliverance. How have you experienced God's deliverance?

Read Psalm 22:22-31

1. This last section is about the Psalmists anticipation of God's deliverance. It starts with proclamation. When did David proclaim the Lord's salvation? How about Jesus? How have you shared how God has worked in your life?
2. The poor and the rich, the living and the dead will worship God for the deliverance God brings. How are we continuing the challenge to proclaim God's goodness to all peoples even in upcoming generations?

Sending Out

Embracing God's deliverance only happens when troubles, heartache and disaster come. Otherwise, we have no need for deliverance. The mournful crying of the David, Jesus' haunting recital of at least the first verse, and even our own journey with hard times calls us to look to God for deliverance. And God has always proven faithful!

Closing

The promise of Psalm 22 is that God is always there even when we feel forsaken!

Close in Prayer