

BIG IDEA

We tend to focus on what is; God envisions what could be.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Read Psalm 42. How would you summarize this psalm?

What emotions can you identify within this text? How can you relate to the Psalmist?

Reread Psalm 42:9-10. Based on what we learned in the message this week, how would you answer the Psalmist's questions?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What do you tend to focus on when your present circumstances are difficult?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:11-12. What connections are you making between this passage and the big idea?

When is it easiest for you to see how God is developing you? When is it most difficult?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Respond to this Howard Hendricks quote from Cal's message:

"Discouragement is the anesthetic the devil uses on a person just before he reaches in and carves out his heart."

Read Hebrews 10:19-25. How can believers help one another to persevere through seasons of discouragement?

Do you have people who speak hope into your present circumstances? Are you the kind of person who speaks hope into the lives of others?

What practical changes can you make in your life in order to get a different perspective on your present?

