



VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT

The stories that we believe about our present have the power to shape our future. If this concept will resonate with your group, make sure to use the last question in the “What Am I Going To Do” Section in your discussion:

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

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Psalm 42 is an interesting chapter because it doesn’t provide a nice, clean progression. The psalmist seems to be on a roller coaster, doubting one moment and then reminding himself of God’s faithfulness the next. If we are being honest, this is the way that the “present” looks for most of us, especially when we are going through hard times.

This passage doesn’t provide clear answers, but this weekend’s message should help your group to work through the challenges in this passage. Here is a recap of some the reasons why God might be allowing us to experience difficulty in our present:

- He wants to build perseverance in us.
- He wants to give us perspective.
- He wants to keep us dependent on him.
- He wants to remind us to look up.
- He wants to equip us to help others.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

1 Corinthians 13:11-12 reminds us how limited our perspective of the present can be. We can usually only see how God has been working *after* we have come through a difficult time.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

We may not always have the power to change our present circumstances, but we do have the power to seek new perspective in these times. This section might be a good time to challenge your group about the way they think and talk about the present (theirs or others). Complaining and envy may be signs of an unhealthy perspective.

