

**Songs of Summer - Psalm 73**

At various times in our lives we face challenging circumstances that can cause us to become jealous or resentful of others, and confused and angry with God about why He doesn’t intervene the way we think He should. Psalm 73 gives us a glimpse into the mind and heart of someone in one of those challenging situations and points us to how we can persevere through those trials with patience and hope.

**Discussion Questions**

* Why do you think people assume that faith in God will remove adversity from life? Have you ever made that assumption? If so, how did it influence your relationship with God?
* Is it difficult for you to accept that challenging circumstances can come from the hand of a loving God? Why or why not?
* Why is it tempting for people in the midst of difficult circumstances to compare their lives to others’ lives? What are some downsides of making those comparisons?
* What did God teach you through the sermon this weekend?
* Read Psalm 73
  + What stands out to you about this passage?
  + What false belief caused Asaph to despair?
  + What true belief(s) gave Asaph the perspective to persevere in faith?
  + What does this passage teach us about the relationship between belief and behavior?
* Read Deuteronomy 8:2-5
  + What stands out to you about this passage?
  + What does this passage teach us about adversity and trials?
* Read Hebrews 10:32-30; and chapter 11
  + What stands out to you about this passage?
  + What does this passage teach us about overcoming hardships?
* Consider this quote from Pastor Vic: *“If you’re struggling with God not being fair, it may be because He is not your chief treasure above earthly prosperity.”* Share with the group about a person you’ve seen persevere through hardship while maintaining faith and hope that God is with them. What are some practical things you can do to remind yourself that God hasn’t abandoned you? What role can a group play in shoring up your faith when God is silent?