

Psalm 119:49-64

Open It:

1. Describe a time when you found the courage to face something difficult or scary because of the assurance of someone with you (a parent teaching you to swim, helping you ride a bike, learning to drive, etc.). Why did you believe in their assurance? What made them trustworthy to you? How did their encouragement give you the courage to take that risk?

Throughout life, there will be times when we will face difficulty. During those seasons, it may even be difficult to see God in the midst of the pain. When those times come, we can find great comfort in the assured promises of God.

Explore It:

Read Psalm 119:49-56 *Zayin*

2. What is the psalmist asking the Lord to remember? Why do you think he's asking God to remember it?
3. What does it mean that God remembers?
4. What is our comfort in affliction? When you hear the phrase, "the promises of God," what comes to mind?
5. What are some of the promises found in God's Word that gives you hope, bring you comfort in difficult times, or get you excited about living?

6. Why would the arrogant mock us? What should our response to their mocking be?

7. The psalmist asked God to remember in v. 49, and now in v. 52 and 55 what does the psalmist say he will remember?

8. Verse 54 describes God's word as the psalmist's theme song. Singing has a powerful way of bringing God's Word to mind. What is a song that has become a "theme song" to you lately or a song that reminds you of God's Word and provides you comfort in the dark night of the soul?

Read Psalm 119:57-64 *Heth*

9. What does it mean "the Lord is my portion?" What are some things we sometimes try to make our portion? Do they satisfy?

10. How have you found God's presence to be a sufficient "portion" in difficult times?

11. Is it okay to ask for God's favor in our lives? How do you define graciousness? How does God show His graciousness towards us?

12. What would cause us to consider our ways? Is this something we would automatically do, or would we be driven to consider our ways only when life goes south?

13. How should the truth of God's constant availability encourage us in times of darkness?

Apply It:

14. Name some ways the Lord's loving kindness is shown to us here on the earth (v. 64).

15. What are some promises God has given us in His Word that we can pray back to Him?

16. What would look different about your response to suffering if you were able to fix yourself carefully on the truth that God is good to you during it?

Homework:

In Acts 16:16-40, we get to see these two stanzas of Psalms lived out by Paul and Silas. Read the passage and compare what they do with what the psalmist writes about in Psalm 119:49-64.

What promises of God can you stand in during difficult times? Commit to memorize one promise (perhaps a new one) that you can pull out in times of darkness (when your Bible might not be readily available).

"With the 'statutes of God' in your hand and in your heart, you are furnished with a song for every step of your way... It is dull, heavy, wearisome to be a pilgrim without a 'song.' And yet it is only the blessed experience of the Lord's statutes that will tune our 'song.' Charles Bridges