

Growth Group Discussion Questions – Psalm 73

Read Psalm 73

1. Psalm 73 starts with a huge truth that many people find very difficult. Verse 1: *“Truly God is good to Israel (God’s OT people), to those who are pure in heart”*. What are some reasons why people are tempted to think God is not good?
2. List all the ways God has shown His goodness to us in Jesus Christ.
3. Read verses 2-9 again. How would you define envy? What are all the things Asaph sees in the people around him? How would you describe these people?
4. In verses 10-11 God’s people are observed by Asaph too. What is their attitude to the wicked? To God?
5. Re-read verses 16-17 and try to put it into your own words. How does Hebrews 10:19-25 help us understand how Jesus opens the way to the sanctuary of God? What does it say we should therefore do?
6. How does entering the sanctuary of God change everything? List all the ways Asaph has changed as a result.
7. Based on Psalm 73, what advice would you give a Christian:
 - who is struggling with envy?
 - who is doubting that God is good to them?
 - who wants to make God more of their refuge and strength?
8. How does Psalm 73 help us to live as Christians in Perth in 2019?

Leaders notes

1. Psalm 73 starts with a huge truth that many people find very difficult. Verse 1: *“Truly God is good to Israel (God’s OT people), to those who are pure in heart”*. What are some reasons why people are tempted to think God is not good?

Some answers include: God is not good because of suffering in the world, because He doesn’t answer my prayers the way I want Him to, everyone around me seems to have a better life than me, good people get bad things and bad people get good thing etc...

2. List all the ways God has shown His goodness to us in Jesus Christ.

He has made us, saved us, sustains our every breath, gives us His Spirit to dwell in us, doesn’t leave us or forsake us, makes us more like Jesus, speaks His powerful word to us, give us Christians around us (the church) to encourage and care for us, will take us to glory with Him....

3. Read verses 2-9 again. How would you define envy? What are all the things does Asaph sees in the people around him? How would you describe these people?

Envy is a feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by seeing and wanting what someone else has. Asaph sees good and bad things in the people around him. They have no pains, their bodies are fit and healthy, they don’t have troubles like others. But he also sees their issues. They are proud, violent, fat, foolish, malicious, oppressive. They are rebellious against the God who mad them.

4. In verses 10-11 God’s people are observed by Asaph too. What is their attitude to the wicked? To God?

God’s people turn towards the wicked and judge that they have not done anything wrong. They even question God as if trying to justify the actions of the wicked. “Don’t worry God doesn’t know what you’re doing!”

5. Re-read verses 16-17 and try to put it into your own words. How does Hebrew 10:19-25 help us understand how Jesus opens the way to the sanctuary of God? What does it say we should therefore do?

We have confidence to enter the presence of God by his blood. (his death on the cross). He is the great high priest – mediator between us and God. We therefore boldly approach the throne with full assurance because of Jesus death.

6. How does entering the sanctuary of God change everything? List all the ways Asaph has changed as a result.

Asaph now sees from God’s perspective. He sees the end result of rebellion against God. He grabs hold of God, is guided by His word and makes God is refuge and strength. He can’t help but tell others of all God has done.