

SUMMER PLAYLIST



Week 2: Appealing to God

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

CONNECT

- How is the summer different for you than other times of the year?
- What's God been saying to you through his word lately?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word "weakness"?

INTRODUCTION

The psalmists show us what it looks like to go to God in a wide array of life experiences and human emotion. By learning from their example, we can be like the well-watered, fruitful tree depicted in Psalm 1. Psalm 41 is a prayer of appeal. It's written by David in a time of life in which he feels weak. We all need to figure out how to cope with times of weakness. Rather than unhealthy coping mechanisms, or just waiting for circumstances to change, we can learn from this psalm what it looks like

to appeal to God in weakness. Even before circumstances change, we can experience the same steadfastness of soul we see in David by the end of this psalm.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Psalm 41

- Describe what's going on in the psalmist's life that has put him in a weak state.
- David describes a hypothetical situation in verses 1-3 –the Lord helping a person in weakness–but then it becomes clear David's situation is like that of the weak person. Why do you think David organizes his psalm this way?
- What is the reason for David's change in tone in verses 11-13? Where do you think that confidence comes from?

APPLICATION

- What have you learned from this psalm about dealing with weak moments in your own life?
- Are there any unhealthy ways you're currently coping with weakness?
- Is there a current area of weakness you're experiencing? Much like David does in verses 1-3, what is a truth about God that can speak directly to that weakness?
- How can the gospel bring you the same level of assurance David experiences in verses 11-13?

PRAYER

- Read verses 11-13 a few times out loud and use them as a jumping-off point for prayer.
- Praise God for his disposition towards the weak.
- Appeal to God like David does in this psalm.