



Purley Baptist Church

Discipleship Guide 29th March 2020

Psalm 42

This Week's BIG IDEA: This psalm teaches us 3 things about God. God is...

- 1) The living God
- 2) The loving God
- 3) The God of my life.

CONNECT UP and IN: Fix your eyes on God and give him an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

For starters... Do you find it hard to keep praying during troubled times in your life? Why or why not?

- 1) Read through Psalm 42. From James' message, what in particular stuck out for you?
- 2) What condition is the psalmist experiencing in Psalm 42:1-3? If the writer himself is likened to a deer, what do the dried up "streams" represent?
- 3) God is the living God (v.2). Many people don't believe in God, how can we be confident that God is alive?
- 4) Why should we be in the habit of talking to ourselves (v.4 & 11)?
- 5) Can you think of a time when talking to yourself helped produce hope?
- 6) Read verses 7 & 8. The psalmist doesn't see 'accidental circumstances'. How do we grow through times of suffering?
- 7) Why is it important for us to process our suffering and troubled times through prayer?

CONNECT OUT as a group to serve the world around you

- 1) Review how as a group you are supporting each other in this season of life. What 'devices' are you finding helpful? What else could help?
- 2) Share any examples from the previous week about how you have been able to 'love your neighbour from a distance'.

Heartbeat

Psalm 27:8 'My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me" And my heart responds, "Lord I am Coming!"

As we press into Father God during these difficult times, let's continue to show love for our church family by lifting each other up in prayer.

Here are some ideas:

- Using the church member's list, start on your surname letter and say aloud 10 names from the list. Then pray for them, and finish with a blessing. Do this every-day until you have prayed the whole list. If we all did this starting from our own surname-the whole membership would be covered on most days!
- If you don't have access to the member's list, or know people in the church who are not members, write down names that come to mind and pray for them.

Other prayer ideas:

Use the TKC notes from last week for an hour's prayer this Wednesday.

Lecto365 is a helpful online daily prayer devotional: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>

News and Notices

- Hear the latest from **James on his blog**
https://www.purleybaptist.org/Groups/320223/Pastors_Blog.aspx
- Updates about PBC and the **Coronavirus** can be found here:
https://www.purleybaptist.org/Groups/337564/News_Coronavirus.aspx
- **Stay in touch with others on our Facebook groups:**
Purley Baptist Church: <https://www.facebook.com/purleybaptistchurch.pbc/>
Congregation group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/purleybaptist/>
20s and 30s group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/411465799048827/>

Recommended resources

Here are some great teaching and devotional resources available on the following web links:

- **Ask NT Wright anything podcast:** Tom on Coronavirus, self-isolating and praying through crisis
<https://www.premierchristianradio.com/Shows/Weekday/Ask-NT-Wright-Anything/Podcast/Ask-NT-Wright-Anything-33-Tom-on-Coronavirus-self-isolating-and-praying-through-crisis>
- **A spoken-word response to COVID-19**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIIV_CfGspM
- **The Presence of God, a 5-Day Devotional from RT Kendal**
<https://www.bible.com/en-GB/reading-plans/4462-the-presence-of-god/day/1>