

## **PSALM 20 STUDY NOTES (6/5/22)**

**Today's Context:** In this "royal liturgy" the people worship, pray, and sacrifice to God as they prepare for battle. They take a posture of weakness in asking God for help, but ultimately find confidence that God will fight for them and give them the victory.

### **Additional Study Notes:**

- This Psalm would have regularly been read before kings of Israel went out into battle. The first half of the Psalm shows the people praying over the King (who is possibly also praying and making sacrifices) before he heads into battle. The second half of the Psalm may be the people *or* the King himself reflecting on God's goodness and faithfulness.

### **For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):**

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request



# Discussion Questions

## **CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK**

- (1) What was most significant for you from Joshua 24? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

## **TODAY'S TEXT**

### ***KNOWING God***

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: What is your plan for staying consistent in your Bible reading going into the summer? How can you find accountability?

### ***GROWING Together***

- (6) *\*If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (7) Do you see God as being intimately working within your material needs and issues (or is He simply responsible for the "spiritual" things)? How do we better entrust Him with our day-to-day material lives?
- (8) Do you tend to be over-confident in your abilities and talents, or do you tend to be more pessimistic and negative about your weaknesses? How does this Psalm show Israel *not* dismissing their abilities and strengths, while simultaneously submitting to their need for God's intervention?
- (9) What does it mean for us to have confidence that God will give us victory? What does it mean when life *doesn't* work out the way we expect it to? How do we live with a deeper confidence and trust in God's love for us and our lives in all circumstances?
- (10) How does Christ's life, death, and resurrection give us assurance in God's love and victory in our lives? How does it give us trust in the day to day struggles of life?
- (11) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

### ***SHOWING God to Others***

- (12) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

## **PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK**

- (13) For next week, spend some time reading 1 Sam 16:1-13. What's interesting? What questions do you have?

## **QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)**

- (14) What stood out to you in this Psalm? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (15) The beginning of this psalm is a prayer for the King when they are about to go to battle. Who are leaders we can be praying for? Why should we pray on their behalf?
- (16) The second half is about the God's graciousness to humans and putting our trust in Him. How do you see God working in these ways in your own life? What good things that have happened to you can point you to God's graciousness? How can you share these truths with your friends?