Psalm 22

We want to continue with another Messianic Psalm for this evening. (Remember, "Messianic Psalm" is simply a term that refers to psalms that speak clearly of the Messiah and His work.) Psalm 2 is a famous chapter that speaks of Yahweh's only begotten Son. He is the One to whom the nations must bow - or face destruction. Tonight, we get a prophetic look at what the work of the Messiah would entail.

The headings of the Psalms are divinely inspired Scripture. Notice how Psalm 22 was written by David. He, more than any other psalmist, prefigures the Person and work of the Messiah. In other words, David's life and reign as king of Israel is Old Testament foreshadowing of the great King who would descend from him and sit on his throne forever.

Part 1: Verses 1-22a

This Psalm describes the suffering and glory of Jesus. This first section focuses heavily on the events surrounding His crucifixion. Take a moment and read verses 1-22a and discuss all the details you see that connect to Christ's work on the cross. (Try to let the group identify as many as they can without help! Maybe offer a brief explanation for each prophetic connection.)

Suggestions
(You can have someone read the NT references if you'd like.)

- Verse 1 is famously quoted by Jesus as He hung on the cross. Have someone read Matthew 27:45-46. Jesus took the words of David and applied them to His suffering. David FELT God-forsaken, though he really wasn't. Jesus, on the other hand, WAS forsaken by His Father. <u>This is the awesome price He paid to atone for our sins</u>. He was forsaken so that we NEVER would be!

- Verses 6-8 describe the reproaches that were cast on David. He felt despised and mocked by his enemies. These words map perfectly onto the awful insults hurled at Jesus as He hung on the cross. Have someone read Matthew 27:39-44.

- Verse 11 speaks of David's abandonment. He complains that there is no one to help him. Jesus was forsaken by His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane and then denied by Peter. Have someone read the last sentence in Matthew 26:56 and Matthew 26:69-75.

- Verses 14-15 speak of David's body being weakened and diminished. His complaint of his tongue clinging to his jaws is similar to Christ's complaint of thirst in John 19:28.

- Verse 16 mentions the piercing of David's hands and feet. It's unlikely that his enemies actually stabbed him in this way. It's a description of pain and suffering caused by hateful people. Jesus was nailed to the cross - receiving puncture wounds in these exact body parts. See Jesus' statement to Thomas in John 20:27.

- Verse 18 describes David's enemies gambling for his clothing. This is the picture of adding insult to injury. It literally happened to Jesus at the foot of the cross. Read John 19:24.

- Also, notice the multiple references to animals. David calls himself a worm. He complains of being surrounded by strong bulls of Bashan as well as raging and roaring lions. He feels surrounded by dogs and he's in danger of being gored by the horns of a wild ox. These are all figures of speech that find their fulfillment in the fierce and brute-like assaults Jesus endured as He was offered up as a sacrifice for our sins.

Part 2: Verses 22b-31

After all these expressions of awful suffering, there is a short but important statement at the end of verse 21. ***"You have answered Me."*** After these words, the Psalm takes on a completely different tone. David's perspective shifts from a suffering servant of Yahweh to a praise-filled victor. Read through verses 22b-31 and take note of how different the mood is.

This profound shift in the Psalm easily maps onto the glorious events surrounding Christ's resurrection from the grave. The Messiah who was forsaken by His Father and died on the cross - came back to life and declares His triumph over the grave!

- Read verse 22 and then compare it with Matthew 28:9-10. His disciples' abandoned Him at the crucial hour - but Jesus steps out of the grave and still calls them His BROTHERS! He is faithful even when we're not.

> ***Discussion Question:*** Read Psalm 22:24 and compare it with the opening verse of the Psalm. David initially complained of being forsaken and not heard. But, he then rejoices in the fact that Yahweh DID hear him and did NOT totally abandon him. <u>How do these two verses connect to Jesus</u>?
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> ***Thoughts:*** Jesus complained of being forsaken by His Father. But, in the resurrection, we see the supreme and eternal love between the Father and the Son. As Christ stepped out of the grave it was a declaration from the Father, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am STILL pleased!" And it was a declaration from the Son, "My Father heard My cries and did not despise My suffering!"

- Verses 27-31 speak of the legacy and impact of these things. David writes about the whole world hearing the news and turning to Yahweh. This is the fruit of Christ's work on the cross. He is drawing people from all over the world to Himself to save sinners and glorify His Father forever! (John 12:32)