



Guidelines: this sermon curriculum is designed to help facilitate small group conversation towards application of sermon. These are ideas to help get the conversation started, so feel free to use whatever is most helpful!

Read Psalm 88 and review the **main points** of the sermon below:

I. Psalm 88 Shows Us the Reality of How Dark You Could Feel and How Long It Could Last – Even as a Believer

- A. Don't Think It Could Never Happen to You
- B. Don't Assume It Will Always End Quickly

II. Psalm 88 Shows You How Genuine Faith Can Be Tested and Forged in the Dark

- A. Look at How He Still Prays to God Even though He's Gotten No Answer
- B. Look at How He Prays Without Any Felt-Sense of God's Presence or Favor in His Life

III. The Darkness that We Have in Psalm 88 is Never the Last Word for Any Believer

Sermon Discussion:

I. Conversation Starter Questions

- A. What movie do you like watching the uncut/director's version?
- B. What's stood out to you in this series through Psalms?
- C. Why do we think mature believers shouldn't suffer?
- D. Does the Psalmists description of how he feels bring up the memories of a season in your life?

II. Application Questions

- A. Why is faith so important to God that he would even lead us into dark season of life?
- B. How do we grow in faith during trials instead of growing cold or bitter towards God?
- C. What does it look like to be honest about our season of life when we're in a time of darkness? How do we still worship God with thankfulness?
- D. How can we be an encouragement to those who are in a dark season? What kind of godly friends did Job really need?!

III. Gospel Connection – It always comes back to Jesus!

- A. What makes how Jesus suffered (Matthew 27:45-46) an infinitely more darker place than we will ever be?
- B. Reference: *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* by Tim Keller.

IV. Prayer Focus Ideas

- A. Pray for anyone in a dark season – pray for those in our church who are struggling (chronic illness, barrenness, etc).
- B. Pray for our faith, that even if we're not in a dark time in life that we would be strengthened for any possible trials.