



GRACE

FELLOWSHIP

"Do You Ever Feel Despair?"

Psalm 10

Pastor Brian Fannin



The 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!

Outline

Read Psalm 10 and review the main points of the sermon below:

Do you ever feel despair? Is it a stop on the road to depression, or the end destination of depression where the ultimate questions rise up and cause us to wonder...where is God and why do the godless do well while you seem to struggle?

I. You question big things (vv 1-2), which can lead you to express one thing that is internalized as everything

- a. Current circumstance and the world around you shape you into a cynic
- b. Cynicism crowds out faith and offers you doubt, anger, and despair.
- c. Despair occurs as your sin of unbelief is clouded and minimized.

II. BUT God-trusting lamenting can lead you out of despair (which the Psalm shows us), even as you witness what your mind cannot necessarily understand.

- a. Interrupt your despair with childlike faith
- b. Lean into truth
- c. Embrace what God has promised

Sermon Discussion:

I. Conversation Starter Questions

- A. Has anyone read "The Praying Life" – do you remember what impacted you?
- B. How does it seem that the godless around you are not struggling?
- C. Why are cynical talk radio hosts so popular?

II. Application Questions

- A. "Doubt, anger and despair are bedfellows and they are unkind" – how do you see this in your own life?
- B. How does cynicism erode a childlike faith?
- C. How does cynicism work its way out in everyday life?

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

Jesus is the only one who could truly say that God had forsaken him – and it was for the payment of our sin when He was on the cross.

IV. Prayer Focus Ideas

- A. Is anyone struggling with despair? Take to him your broken heart; but move your focus from "down and in" to UP and OUT!
- B. God's goodness – ask to see how He is being good in current circumstances