



Community Group Discussion Guide

Psalm 3 - Weekend of June 16th

I. Starter Question:

Share a time when God protected you from danger, persecution, or harm.
(Happy Father's Day) Which parent could you more easily cry with and why?

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Psalm 3 (ESV) - A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

O Lord, how many are my foes!
Many are rising against me;
2 many are saying of my soul,
"There is no salvation for him in God." *Selah*[a]
3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.
4 I cried aloud to the Lord,
and he answered me from his holy hill. *Selah*
5 I lay down and slept;
I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.
6 I will not be afraid of many thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around.
7 Arise, O Lord!
Save me, O my God!
For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;
you break the teeth of the wicked.
8 Salvation belongs to the Lord;
your blessing be on your people! *Selah*

Brief Explanation:

The heading attributes this psalm to David, composed as he was fleeing from his son Absalom (cf. **2 Samuel 15-18**). It is commonly called "a morning hymn" (cf. v. **5**) in which the psalmist prays for God's protection. David addresses his complaint to the Lord, how there be many who trouble him. They even taunt him by saying there is no help from God for him (cf. the curses of Shimei, **2 Samuel 16:5-8**). In this psalm (and in many others) we find the word "**Selah**". The exact meaning is unknown, but it may have served the purpose of providing some musical notation. It seems to be inserted where a pause is desirable for the singer or reader of the psalm to reflect upon the thought or statement just made (1-2).

Following his complaint is an expression of comfort received from the Lord in the past. Such consolation prompts him to view the Lord as a shield and his glory, the One who is able to lift up his head. Indeed, the Lord has heard his earlier cry and enabled him to sleep and awake.

This gives him renewed courage to face his many enemies (cf. **2 Samuel 18:7**), even though they numbered in the thousands (**Psalm 3:3-6**). As he starts the new day, he yet again calls upon the Lord to save him, even as He has done in the past. His "morning hymn" ends with the acknowledgment of God as the source of salvation and blessing for His people (**Psalm 3:7-8**).

For Discussion:

1) What are the main points of this psalm?

- David's complaint (1-2)
- David's comfort (3-6)
- David's cry (7-8)

2) Who is the author of this psalm, and what occasion led to its composition? Why does David flee instead of fight?

- David
- When he was fleeing from Absalom (2 Samuel 15:13-30)

3) What was David's complaint? (1)

- Many have risen against him, to trouble him

4) What were people saying about David? Who said such things? (2)

- There is no help for him from God
- Shimei, son of Gera, of the house of Saul (cf. 2 Samuel 16:5-8)

5) What is the meaning of the word "Selah"? (2)

- It is likely a musical notation
- Perhaps inserted where a pause is desirable for the singer or reader of the psalm to reflect upon the thought or statement just made (Leupold)

6) How did David view God? (3)

- As a shield, his glory, the One who lifts up his head

7) What did David do, and what was God's response? (4)

- David cried to the Lord with his voice
- God heard him from His holy hill

8) What was David able to do because of God's sustaining him? (5)

- To lay down and sleep, and then to awake

9) What else did God make possible for David? (6)

- Not to be afraid, even when ten thousands of people surrounded against him

10) For what does David pray? (7)

- To arise and save him

11) What had God done for David in the past? (7)

- Struck his enemies on the cheekbone
- Broken the teeth of the ungodly

13) What does David attribute to the Lord? (8)

- Salvation and blessing to His people

14) Have you felt abandoned by friends? By family? By God? What “foes are you currently facing? From what are you praying for deliverance? How will you know if that prayer is answered? Will it look like the answer in verse 7?

III. Responding in Prayer:

1. Pick a specific people group or group of Christians in the world who are being persecuted and spend some time to pray for them and for God’s protection.
2. Pray for God’s protection over our church, over your families, and thank him for the ways in which he has provided his protection over the course of your life.
3. Pray for healing of broken relationships within your families, your CG and within our church. Continue to pray for “your one”. Pray that the Lord will open doors for you to share the Gospel this summer.