

D. God's character: "My God"

This is covenant, relational language drawn from God's repeated promise in Scripture, "I will be your God, and you will be my people"

E. Why are *you* cast down?

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups
as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

Love the Gospel

- What passages can you think of which highlight the importance of Christian community for God's people?
- How do you see Psalm 42 point forward to the good news of what God did for his people in Jesus?

Live the Gospel

- Are there any ways you have noticed yourself drifting from God's people and from God himself during the current pandemic?
- Are there any ways you have been encouraged by how much your soul has thirsted for God during this time in which Christian community has looked so different?

Advance the Gospel

- What has it looked like for you to encourage those who are far from Christian community right now?
- Who do you know who may need encouragement from the Downcast Soul's Catechism in Psalm 42?

The Downcast Soul's Catechism

Peter Stonecipher — July 19, 2020

Text: Psalm 42:1-11

Introduction

A "Shorter Catechism" man

At some point in our lives, our souls will be cast down

I. When Our Souls are Far from Worshipping God (vv. 1-2, 4, 6-7)

A. As a deer pants for water

A desperate, deeply-felt, survival level search

B. From Jordan, Hermon, and Mount Mizar

Hermon is over a hundred miles from Mt. Zion in the South in Jerusalem where God's house is

"Often we fail to recognize how delightful and pleasant temple worship was for the participants." – Gerald Wilson

C. Creatures dependent on our Creator

We are in desperate need of God himself

“Thirst is a perpetual appetite, and not to be forgotten...When it is as natural for us to long for God as for an animal to thirst, it is well with our souls.” – Charles Spurgeon

John 4:14

D. Creatures made for community

There is a direct correlation in Psalm 42 between distance from God’s house, distance from God’s people, and distance from God himself

II. When Our Souls are Questioned by God’s Enemies (vv. 3, 8-10)

A. Difficult situation + Difficult people

B. Length: “All day and night”

C. Intensity: “As with a deadly wound in my bones”

D. Strategy: “Where is your God?”

E. Where is our God?

“Yahweh [the covenant God] and hesed [steadfast, covenant love] cannot be separated.” – Gerald Wilson

1 Corinthians 15:54ff; John 16:7; Hebrews 1:2-4

III. The Downcast Soul’s Catechism (vv. 5, 11)

A. The catechism repeated

“The main art in the matter of spiritual living is to know how to handle yourself. You have to take yourself in hand, you have to address yourself, preach to yourself, question yourself.” - Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“David chides David out of the dumps.” – John Trapp

B. An unexpected response

Hoping in God is one of the most difficult things to do when we’re experiencing soul turmoil

“Let the anchor still keep its hold. God is faithful, God is love, therefore there is room and reason for hope.” – Charles Spurgeon

C. God’s Work: “My salvation”