

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

We Praise You, Made Me Glad, Waymaker

## WELCOME

Have you been through an emergency situation in the past? What was the situation? Who did you call first?

## WORD

### PSALM 91

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.<sup>2</sup>I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"<sup>3</sup>For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper And from the deadly pestilence. <sup>4</sup>He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.<sup>5</sup>You will not be afraid of the terror by night, Or of the arrow that flies by day;<sup>6</sup>Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, Or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. <sup>7</sup>A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, But it shall not approach you. <sup>8</sup>You will only look on with your eyes And see the recompense of the wicked. <sup>9</sup>For you have made the Lord, my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place.<sup>10</sup>No evil will befall you, Nor will any plague come near your tent. <sup>11</sup>For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup>They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone. <sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion and cobra, The young lion and the serpent you will trample down. <sup>14</sup>"Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. <sup>15</sup>"He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. <sup>16</sup>"With a long life I will satisfy him And let him see My salvation."*

According to Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, SECURITY AND SAFETY comes second to man's PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS. This is no surprise, as there are many things that we fear in life that have surfaced in this pandemic. Our insecurities are shaking many people to the core of their being; but our lesson from Psalm 91 is this: **WHEN LIFE SEEMS SCARY, CALL 911!**

We are not talking about the telephone number that you would dial in case of emergencies. We are referring to **PSALM 91** beginning in **v1**. It talks about God's amazing solution to provide security, peace, and safety in the midst of trouble and of great need and fear. We want to know this by heart so that we do not miss out on the life-giving truths presented in this promise-filled psalm.

### **1. KNOW THE PREMISE (VV. 1-2, VV. 9-10, V.14)**

We are introduced to the condition of the promise (the PREMISE) in the first two verses of this psalm. It is not for everybody but for those who **DWELL IN HIM** – a great word that captures the meaning of *abiding* and *staying*. We see the same picture of utmost dependence and intimacy with the Lord in **John 15:5**. That is exactly what the "shelter" or "secret place" stands for. It also captures the sense of nearness, as with taking shade beneath a shadow. You will only be covered once you stay within the boundaries of that shadow. This is the psalmist's intent, that we can have a picture of who is eligible to claim the wondrous promises in **Psalm 91**.

This condition is emphasized again in **vv.9-10**. To make God our ultimate **REFUGE** and **DWELLING PLACE** would mean that we

are abiding in God's presence. We choose to walk with the Lord and obey Him.

Such a person who lives like this would know his security and protection is in God. God promised that if you are in His Presence, you will be secure.

### **2. KNOW THE PROMISER (VV. 1-4)**

This psalm also gives proof of the ability of the One giving the promise to stay true and faithful to His every word spoken. Early on in the first two verses, we see 4 different names of our GOD: **MOST HIGH** (El Elyon) – a name covering His over-all supreme authority; **ALMIGHTY** (El Shaddai) – emphasizing His power to provide and sustain; **LORD** (YAHWEH) – the Holiest Name which reminds us all that He is a covenant-keeper; and **GOD** (Elohim) – reminding us of His majesty.

Furthermore in **vv. 3-4**, we are given a glimpse of what our Lord can do:

- **He delivers us from the snares of trappers and pestilence...** The world is filled with danger. We are facing not just pestilence and calamities, but also spiritual forces that draw us further away from God through various temptations that ensnare us to sin (**2 Tim. 2:26**).
- **He covers us with His wings...** The only way to overcome the snare of the devil is to stay close to our Savior and God. Jesus Himself used a similar picture in **Matthew 23:37** where He said, He wanted to protect His people like a mother hen gathering her chicks under her wings.

## WORD (cont'd)

- **His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark** – There is an assurance of protection by using these tools of defenses as imagery in the promise given.

The only way we will find security in life is when we come to God, the Promise-Giver.

### **3. KNOW THE PROMISES (VV. 5-7, 10-16)**

From **vv. 5-7** and repeated in **vv.10-16**, we see that people can be anxious and fearful in the midst of danger. If you don't understand the Lord and what it means to be protected by Him, you have every reason to be afraid. But the firm promise to those who satisfy the promise given is that they **WILL NOT BE AFRAID**. Our security is in God's hand. Sickesses, threats, and even death could happen, but we can rest assured that God is still in control. The promises are again repeated in **vv. 11-13**. Based on that promise, God will protect you. The same verses were misused by the devil to tempt Jesus in **Matthew 4:5-7**. This promise does not mean you will always be exempted from problems, trials, or sickness. God promised to protect us in and through trials to ensure that His good purpose in our life will be

accomplished for God's glory. God guarantees our eternal well-being. If your security is not in God and is in something else, you will never be secure. You can lose money, relationships, and loved ones. The only real security that you have is God. **Hebrews 11:37-39** shows us the promises of God are not always experienced in our lifetime. God is honored if you trust Him and cling to Him. **FAITH** is the crucial thing that we need to have – assurance of things hoped for, and conviction of things unseen (**Hebrews 11:1**).

Towards the last 3 verses (**vv.14-16**), the LORD takes over the psalmist and speaks forth an **8-fold promise** to the one who **LOVES (Heb. CHASHAQ)** Him. The Apostle Paul perfectly captures this in his last letter to Timothy (**2 Timothy 4:17-18**). The guarantee of our security is that even in the midst of challenges we have nothing to fear because God is with us. Whatever God has allowed to happen us, even death, will turn out not to be an evil thing for us. It is simply a promotion. Intimacy with God means we are assured of God's promised "911". God will protect you. He will guard you. You have nothing to fear. May these truths be our security when life seems scary!

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. Are you certain that you are eligible for God's promises? Can you say you are dwelling and abiding in Him? Explain.
2. Which among the names of God mentioned in the psalm is most meaningful to you? Why?
3. What are the promises in Psalm 91 that you will hold on to? How do you plan to keep in mind these promises?

## WORKS

### **PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION**

Pray that God will reveal Himself in people during this time of fear and anxiety. Be a trusted family member and friend by being true and faithful in keeping your promises. Share about how God's promise of eternal peace, security and protection in Jesus Christ.

### **WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS**

#### **I. Thanksgiving**

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### **II. Country and the World**

- God-given wisdom for leaders and scientists to manage the pandemic and develop a COVID 19 vaccine
- Repentance and salvation for millions struggling with the pandemic and its effect of the economy, family, etc.

#### **III. Church**

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### **IV. CCF Facilities**

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### **V. Personal Concerns**

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends