

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

The Same Jesus, Psalm 27: One Thing, Whom Shall I Fear

## WELCOME

What do you observe are people most anxious about these days? What are you most worried about?

## WORD

### PSALM 27:1-5; 11-14

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? <sup>2</sup>When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. <sup>3</sup>Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, In spite of this I shall be confident. <sup>4</sup>One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple. <sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. <sup>11</sup>Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path because of my foes. <sup>12</sup>Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence. <sup>13</sup>I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. <sup>14</sup>Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.*

*(Please read the rest of Psalm 27).*

How do we continue to deal with the reality of the pandemic going on today? Many people are understandably concerned, worried, and fearful. We hear of increasing job losses, economic and political unrest, and the constant barrage of financial, relational, and even health problems. We need courage to conquer these fears!

We want to move from being fear-full to being fear-less. As we study **PSALM 27**, we will discover this truth: **KNOW GOD, NO FEAR**. Through David's ancient song, we'll find out how to overcome our fears today through:

### 1. PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

The psalmist David began by confessing and proclaiming his personal knowledge of who God is. According to David, the **LORD (YAHWEH)**, His personal name, is his light and salvation. Notice the personal pronouns used – “my”, “I”. This implies a real personal relationship with God, the first step to overcoming our fears. David said **three things about God** – my light, my salvation, my security and refuge, and we can all link these things to the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ:

**LIGHT** – In **Psalm 36:9**, David vividly captures this benefit as He acknowledged God to be with the “fountain of life” and that His light, superior to all, allows us to see light. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** reminds us that we have spiritual eyes that enable us to see the truth. However, Satan has blinded us. If people don't understand the good news about Jesus, the reason is they are *spiritually blind* – they cannot see. That's why we have to be patient in leading others to Jesus, because in **verse 12**, we see that when we turn to the Lord, we will be able to see again. In

**John 8:12**, Jesus makes a stark claim that He is truly the Light. The implication is that without Jesus, we are in darkness, and we won't be able to comprehend the truth. The opposite is also true that once we follow Jesus, we will be able to see clearly the difference between right and wrong.

**SALVATION** – salvation begins with knowing who God is. In **John 17:3**, we read that the key to having eternal life is relationship with GOD through JESUS CHRIST.

**SECURITY AND REFUGE** – we've been learning the past few Sundays about how GOD is our refuge or stronghold. **John 10:28** is a wonderful assurance from Jesus that “*no one will snatch them out of My hand.*” To overcome fear, we have to know who God is.

In the midst of danger and fear (**vv.2-3**), David has shown us that it is by knowing God (not just knowing ABOUT God) that we can experience a change from fearfulness to fearlessness.

### 2. PURSUE INTIMACY

When you have a personal relationship with God, He begins to give you a hunger to pursue Him. **V.4** is a powerful reminder to us – “**one thing**” means priority. For David, the pursuit of God is the most important thing in life. That is the hunger of David – to know the Lord. We can have various pursuits in this life, and these things can be good, except when they become more important than God – then they become idols, and we are doomed for disappointment when that happens. David wanted to worship the Lord and to meditate in His temple. The word **behold** means to **gaze, focus, and worship**. It will take us eternity to learn about God, yet when we see Jesus and fix our

## WORD (cont'd)

eyes on Him, we will learn about the infinite God. David knew who God was and knew of the reasons why he could be confident in the Lord (**Psalm 27:5-6**). **A.W. Tozer** once said that “*any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven.*” How do you feel towards worshipping God?

**Matthew 13:45-46** is a good reminder for all of us. Once you know who Jesus is, you will now be willing to give up all other “treasures” like what the Apostle Paul has said (**Philippians 3:8**). What you are giving up is not as precious compared to experiencing intimacy and the proximity of the Lord in your life!

### **3. PRAY EXPECTANTLY**

The more you know GOD, the more you would like to pray. Prayer is an indicator or thermometer of our intimacy with the Lord. That's why David gave out an honest and very personal prayer (**Psalm 27:7-8**). But true intimacy is not a one-way street. You should also be able to hear from Him as you seek His face. James affirms a promise in **James 4:8** that when we draw near to God, we need to get rid of anything that is not pleasing to Him. Sin will stand in the way of our intimacy with Jesus. That's why we see a submissive stance from David in **Psalm 27:9-10**: the

evidence of knowing GOD is that the more you know Him, the more you will want to submit to Him and turn away from sin. David did not run after anything else; even earth-bound relationships were nothing compared to his utmost dependence on the Lord. That is why from **verse 11 to verse 14**, David declares that his hope is in the Lord. How do we know the ways of the Lord? **Psalm 119:26** says to ask GOD for guidance! We must invest time studying the Bible if we want like DAVID, to personally experience that **GOD IS GOOD**.

If you put your trust in Him and depend upon Him, when you seek and prioritize Him, you will not succumb to your fears. What God's good thing for you may not necessarily be your idea of “good” ... but whether you like it or not, later on, you will realize how it is **for your good**. The process may take time, but like David, we can continue to **WAIT (Heb. QAVAH)** on the Lord, trusting that in His perfect timing, He will fulfil the purpose He had set for our lives. Until then, we remain steadfast in seeking to know Him, and put our hope in Him. As **Psalm 34:8-10** reminds us, when we seek Him first, we will never be in lack or want of any good thing. Let that assurance drive away all your fears away!

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

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

- 1. Self-Check.** On a scale of 1 to 10, what is your intimacy level with God? How does this affect your level of courage?
- 2. Setting It Right.** Many times, we want to do things our way. What have you learned in following your own way and not God's? What do you need to wait on the Lord for this week?
- 3. Living It Out.** How has this pandemic affected your intimacy with God? Which of the 3 points in our lesson do you need to apply more to increase your intimacy with the Lord?

## WORKS

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

Pray that God will work in our hearts and the hearts of the people we pray for. Pray through Psalm 27 with someone who you know experiences fear, worry and anxiety these days. Share how Jesus is the LIGHT of the world and how His presence dispels all the darkness of fear, worry and anxiety in our lives!

### **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

#### **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