



SDG Discussion Guide

Psalm 78, Part 2

March 1, 2020

For starters:

What is one highlight and one lowlight that you can share that you experienced of late?

What is one of your favorite Disney movies? What makes it so?

What is one of your fondest childhood memories of your family members and the impressions left on you?

Guideline:

The following is meant to provide interaction with the respective Sunday's sermon text. Feel free to forward to your small group members. Hard copies are available at Church on the respective Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud and slowly the selected passage in your group.

Before you begin your discussion, pray, and ask God to speak to your group. Listen attentively, and notice, what may God be highlighting for your consideration and learning?

Now that you have prayed, please see the following questions that may assist you in your discussion.

1. What test do the men of Ephraim (vv 9-11) put to God (vv 18-20)? What test does God put to them (Ex 16:16-20)? Why do they demand further proof of God's covenant love? What moods does God alternate between (vv 21-24, 30-31)? Why does God save them only to have them die (see Numbers 11:33-34)? What limits to divine patience might be seen here?

2. Why does God have mercy on humans (vv 38-39)? Is it fair for God to expect more from "a passing breeze"?

3. Why is Israel urged to remember (vv 40-55)? What plagues of Egypt underscore the psalmist's point?

4. What events from the times of Joshua and Samuel are recalled (vv 54-66)? Why does the psalmist say the Lord "abandoned the tabernacle at Shiloh (v 60; see 1 Samuel 4:1-11)? How did God put the Philistines "to everlasting shame" (v 66; see 1 Samuel 5:6-10)?

5. In the psalmist's mind, why did God have the Temple built in Judah (vv 67-69)? Since the Temple was built by Solomon, why does the psalmist sing the praises of David?

6. What is the psalmist's message to Ephraim? To Judah? Will his generation avoid the mistakes of the past?

7. Since all people as a group create the environment in which children grow up, should parents be solely responsible for their nurturing? How can you take a more active role in helping the children in your neighborhood? In your church?

Prayer:

Lord, we are all your children in need of realizing your love - the love of the Father. God, you are good - it is who you are. We are loved by you. Before we love, we are first loved by you. Bring up that truth and realization in us once more. Help us know again of your profound love for us, God. And may our response be one of gratitude - an outpouring of your love toward our children to teach them well that you are a good, good Father. In Jesus' name, amen.

*The discussion questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).