

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WORKSHOP

Practical Wisdom for your Life

June 14th, 2020, 11 AM via Zoom

The Ways of Worship, Worship Means Asking Where and Why

A good question for an atheist is to serve him a fine dinner,
and then ask if he believes there is a cook.

From the Anglican Digest

It's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted.

Bertrand Russell, Philosopher

If we should have new knowledge, we must get a whole world of new questions.

Suzanne K. Langer, Philosopher and educator

The one who asks questions cannot avoid the answers.

African proverb

There are years that ask questions and years that answer.

Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God

...when in anguish over any human violence done to innocent victims, we ask of God, "How could you let that happen?" it's well to remember that God at that very moment is asking the exact same question of us.

William Sloan Coffin

When you are in the middle of a story it isn't a story at all, but only a confusion, a dark roaring, a blindness, a wreckage of shattered glass and splintered wood.

Margaret Atwood, Alias Grace

Centering questions

Take a few deep breaths and quietly consider the following questions:

What questions do you struggle with the most in these days of Covid 19 and social unrest? Why?

This week's Biblical passage

Psalm 42

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and behold the face of God? ³ My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

⁴ These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help ⁶ and my God.

My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

⁷ Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

⁸ By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹ I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me?"

Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?"

¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Discussion questions and background

1. Why is the deer panting? What does that tell you about how the psalmist feels?
2. He is remembering going to the temple? Why is that in the past tense?
3. How does that isolation relate to our own?
4. What else is going on that has got him downcast?
5. What question helps him get centered? He asks it twice and each time, it restores his spirit. What is it?
6. What is the answer to his question do you think? How does that help?

Closing thoughts

Fear is a question: what are you afraid of, and why?
Just as the seed of health is in knowledge if you explore them.

Marilyn Ferguson

Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?

Martin Luther King Jr.

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