



Sermon Discussion Guide

JUNE 9, 2019 • MOUNTAINS & VALLEYS • BEAU HAMNER
PSALM 116

ACCEPT

- What risk have you take lately? Did you share that risk with your group and how did they encourage you? How could they encourage you to take risks in the future?

ENCOURAGE

“You need not be afraid of sudden disaster
or the destruction that comes upon the wicked,
for the Lord is your security.

He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap.” **Proverbs 3:25-26**

- What were the positive, encouraging experiences people saw this week? Where might God have been in those situations?
- What were some of the difficult situations or experiences of the week? Where might God have been during those times?

Share Scriptural words of encouragement with each other based on how you have been praying for each other this week.

TEACH

Teaching Summary

God is present with us through both through periods of blessing and periods of struggle. In both, He listens attentively to our prayers of joy and our prayers of lament. He responds through graciousness, compassion, and protection. Our response to His action should not be one of ambivalence or inaction. Instead we are called to fulfill the vows we have made to God and respond to Him with thanks before all His people.

Review Questions

1. Throughout your life, what vows have you made? Have you kept them? Why or why not?
2. What vows have you made to God in the past and have there been times when it was hard to keep those vows? Share stories of times when your vows were tested. Did you get to a place where you could “give a sacrifice of thanksgiving” when times were hard?
3. What vows might you need to make to God? How will you keep those vows?

Transformation Questions

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

REFLECT AND CORRECT

- Take some time to let everyone in the group reflect on and examine the last week, asking God to show them important events and interactions.
- How did you respond in those times? Do you wish you had done something differently? What can you celebrate?
- When you find yourself in these situations in the future, how will you respond? Why will you respond this way?

SERVE

- Who in your group or organization are you intentionally helping to develop and grow? How are you doing this?

PRAY

Here is a guided prayer based on Psalm 116. The leader can start and people in the group can finish each sentence.

“I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy.”

(give people a moment to be silent and listen)

- “I saw only trouble and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the Lord. Savior, I don’t see a way through...”
- “The Lord protects those of childlike faith. Give me childlike faith about...”
- “O Lord, I am your servant; yes, I am your servant, born into your household; you have freed me from my chains. God, thank you for freeing me from...”
- “I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all your people. God, I have made a vow to...”

“Let my soul be at rest again, for the Lord has been good to me.”

Amen.

Here is the prayer of missionary Henry Johnston that was shared during the sermon.

The Lord being my helper, I do this day consecrate to the Lord and lay upon his altar, not to be mine any longer, only as the Lord wills it, my wife, my home, my child, my position, my papers, my church, my friends, my reputation, my relatives, my plans of life, my convictions of right, my political opinions, my reform ideas, my health, my mind, my body, my pride, my ambitions, my all. The Lord take me and cleanse me and make me wholly thine through the blood of Jesus Christ.

*Share ways you can pray for each other over the coming week.
Spend time praying with each other now, listening to God for ways to pray.*