

Question Everything // Part 4

Psalm 57

Read the Scripture reference above and then read the introduction below to help guide your personal study.

The sermon this weekend addresses a haunting question for many of us, “Does God have a purpose for my life?” For others, it confronts a continual frustration: “I know that God has a purpose for me, but I can’t seem to figure it out and get to work on it!”

Psalm 57 is a wonderful guide as we seek to answer these questions. It is a Psalm of David written while he was hiding in a cave fleeing the murderous pursuit of King Saul. During this difficult time in his life, David shines a light on what God’s purpose is for him and for all of us. When everything in David’s life was falling apart, God’s great purpose for him was still standing strong.

In the midst of his terrible circumstances, David praised God, “Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.” Though he was a skilled warrior, he confesses that his true hope was in God’s mercy. “For in you,” he cries out, “my soul takes refuge.” When his future and his reputation appeared to be ruined, David had confidence that God would still fulfill his purpose in him. Let Psalm 57 direct you as you explore what God’s purpose is for your life and how you can live it out.

Work through these questions before you come to small group and be ready to interact with the Scriptures and questions below.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. In the sermon this weekend, Pastor J.D. talked about how important it is to find purpose in your life. How have you seen this to be true personally?
2. What else from the sermon stood out to you as challenging or insightful?
3. Read Psalm 57. What words and concepts are repeated, emphasized, and connected? Are there ideas that are contrasted?
4. Examine: The refrain repeated in verses 5 and 11 binds the Psalm together. How does this repeated verse point us to the meaning of the Psalm?

5. Turn a few pages over to Psalm 108. Psalm 57:7-11 is repeated again as the intro to Psalm 108. How does Psalm 108 shed further light on the purpose of our lives?

6. Consider the notation at the beginning of the Psalm. How does this context clarify David's purpose in this Psalm?

7. What do you learn about God from this passage?

8. Apply: From the sermon and from this passage, how would you describe what your God-given purpose is?

9. What circumstance has God put you in right now where you need to ask God to fulfill his purpose in you? What is one situation in your life where you need to pray, "Be exalted, O God!"

10. Pray: Pray through what you learned from this Psalm and from the sermon this weekend:

- God has a purpose for you—but it's not about you. Confess areas of your life where you have made it all about you, and ask God to "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!"
- God has a purpose for you—and it's about what he's doing in you. Where in your life do you need to stop relying on your own strength and seek refuge in God? Where do you need to hide in the shadow of his wings? Pray verse 1 back to God, "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge..."
- God has a purpose for you—and if you are surrendered to it, he will fulfill it. Consider the areas of your life where you need to surrender to God's purpose. Ask God to fulfill that purpose in you by praying verse 2 back to God, "I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me."