

Life Group Bible Study

Open / Scripture

1. How would you complete the phrase: "Man is the only animal that... "?
2. What would you want named after you: Children or grandchildren? Town? Park or building? Scholarship fund? Scientific discovery?

Observation

1. As you read this passage (Psalm 49) what verse, phrase, or picture jumps out at you, causes you to celebrate, raises questions, or clarifies something?
2. How does the psalmist get your attention in verse 1-4? What is his riddle?
3. Is the message for the rich alone? In what things do these people trust? (vv. 6, 11) What reality do they refuse to see? How is that world view expressed today?
4. How does the psalmist account for the unfaithfulness in life (v. 15)? What is the basis for his viewing reality that way? How can God solve the problem stated in verses 7-9?
5. What picture does the psalmist paint of the hereafter (vv. 16-19)? What verses indicate a heaven and hell? What verses indicate no afterlife at all?
6. If money cannot buy eternity, what can? Why is money ultimately over-rated?

Apply

1. If all perish like the beasts (v. 12), what is the benefit of doing right? If there were no heaven or hell, would you agree with modern sentiments like "just do it" or "he who dies with the most toys wins"?
2. This psalm is echoed in Jesus' teaching (see Mt. 6:25-34). How do both teachings challenge your current lifestyle and priorities? How can you avoid being "like the beasts"?

Prayer

Who can you bless with this information?

What do you need to discuss with your life group?

What can we pray with you about? (What does the Spirit need to heal? What does the Spirit need to embolden?)

Daily Devotional (optional preparation exercise)

Monday	Psalm 49	Tuesday	1 Peter 1:17-21
Wednesday	Matthew 6:25-34	Thursday	Matthew 6:19-24
Friday	Malachi 3:10	Saturday	Hebrews 13:5-8
Sunday	Proverbs 3:9-10		

Accountability (optional exercise - ask one)

Inviting people to Know Christ - Are you learning to be intentional about sharing Jesus with neighbors? Are you praying for a 3:1:M friend? How are they doing? Are you reaching your group and individual goals in this area?

Keeping connected to Christ - Are you building an interactive relationship with God? In your private prayer and devotional time, what are you learning or experiencing? How are you Knowing Christ in worship? Are you reaching your group and individual goals in this area?

Moving to serve with Christ - Are you showing up? How are you making community and teamwork important to your life? How's your commitment to small group and worship going? Are you your gifts to serve the Community surrounding us?