Preparing for Small Group: Read the passage below, and answer the following questions.
(1) What do these verses tell me about God?
(2) What do these verses tell me about sinful humanity?
(3) What do these verses tell me about Jesus?
(4) What does God want me to know?
(5) What does God want me to do?

“Spoken: For Life to Witness”
Psalm 119:73-80

Main Idea: God’s Word brings hope into your life for your witness for God.

WAYS that God’s Word brings hope into your life for your witness for God:

God’s truth gives you the truth about life, your hope, and God’s righteousness (73-75).

The psalmist recognized that God had created him in a unique and personal way, and in that, the psalmist knew that God was the One to teach him to understand God’s Word. This revelation reminds us that a proper perspective on God as your Creator should lead to a proper position before God in humility and dependence on Him through His Word (73). Hoping in God’s Word — both when attacked by those who reject God and when disciplined by God for personal sin — is the only right response for the child of God. The beautiful thing is that hoping in God’s Word not only impacts the life and witness of the individual who hopes in God’s promises, but it also brings encouragement and joy into the lives of other believers. What an important truth! Hoping in God’s Word not only brings hope into your life but also brings joy into the lives of believers who see your hope in God (74). The psalmist recognized that the affliction or discipline that he endured was not because of God’s unfaithfulness. God did not hide the fact of His blessings and curses that would come to His covenant people based on their faithfulness to His covenant. This is a truth that brings strength to faith. The discipline that you endure as a believer is not because of God’s unfaithfulness; instead, it is precisely because of God’s faithfulness (75)!

1. How do you develop a proper perspective on God? What is God’s design for our pursuit of growing in our knowledge of Him? Do you have a solid, biblical perspective on God?
2. Have you ever been positively impacted by witnessing someone’s hope in God’s Word through a time of affliction or discipline? Share you testimony about that experience.
3. What does it mean to hope in God’s Word? Apply that to situations in your lives right now.
4. Discuss the attitude of the psalmist in verse 75. Do you have this attitude in times of affliction? Why, or why not? Pray for hearts in our church that joyfully trust in the righteousness of God!

God’s promises allow God to display His faithfulness through you (76-79).

In the midst of affliction or discipline, the psalmist looked to the reality of God’s promises. The psalmist recognized that God’s discipline in the lives of His children had purpose. The
psalmist knew that God used discipline to draw His children back to Himself. He knew that God's purpose was one of redemption and that God had promised good for His people. The psalmist trusted in what God had promised, knowing that God is the God who keeps His promises. Based on that, he asked God to fulfill several of His promises in his life. We can do the same today as God's children, including asking God to...

- To give you comfort through God's unchanging love (76).
- To give you mercy through the delight of God’s Word (77).
- To give you victory over God’s enemies who would delight in your demise (78).
- To give you purpose to be a witness to strengthen the faith of others (79).

1. Read verse 76. What does “steadfast love” mean? How does this bring comfort? Who can you share this truth with in the coming week. Discuss, and pray.
2. Read verse 77. What is God’s “mercy?” How is this connected in a real way with living? How does delighting in God’s Word impact God’s mercy in our lives? Do you delight in His Word?
3. Read verse 78. How would you justify this verse in light of those who are martyred for their faith? Read Romans 8:28-39. How do these verses point to the fullness of truth in Psalm 119?
4. Read verse 79. Do you think about your witness for the Lord at all times in your life, even in times of affliction and discipline? Why is this so important? Discuss the heart of the psalmist, and pray for this heart in your small group.

God’s grace alone is able to make your heart blameless before God (80).

Finally, the psalmist asked for the blessing of blamelessness in his life before God. The only way this request makes sense is in light of God’s grace and forgiveness, washing away and forgiving the sins of the psalmist against God. Additionally, the only way this request makes sense is if the psalmist’s heart truly desired to move forward in obedience to God. This is a beautiful picture of a repentant heart that's turned completely to follow God by faith.

1. What does “blameless” mean? Was this possible in terms of living without sin in the Old Testament or now? So how was this possible for the psalmist to make this request?
2. How does the gospel explain the fullness of God’s plan for blamelessness before Him?
3. Read 2 Cor. 5:11-21. Discuss how these verses help explain God’s work of reconciliation through Jesus. What do these verses say about your life in Christ and your calling through the grace that you’ve received in Christ? How does this connect to your witness?
4. Close by discussing and sharing the individual(s) that you are prayerfully engaging with the gospel. Pray for those individuals. Pray for effective words in sharing Jesus. Pray for lives to be reconciled to God!