

FAITH IN SUFFERING

Foundational Practice: Giving Generously

This month, we are focusing on our foundational practice of giving generously. We are stewards of God's resources, which includes our time, gifts, and money. Generosity is a posture of the heart--we have been blessed to be a blessing to others! Spend a few minutes having 1-2 people share their responses to the following questions: How did you experience God's generous heart this past week? In what ways can you be generous with your time, gifts, and resources this next week?

1. *Read Psalm 56 out loud.* What stands out to you in this passage? What caught your attention in Mike's message and why?
2. In the midst of a season of suffering, David penned Psalm 56 (see 1 Samuel 21:10-15). Place yourself in David's shoes and imagine the emotions that he was feeling. In what ways do you resonate with Psalm 56? Where do you see a connection between your life circumstances/experiences and David's season of suffering?

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?”

PSALM 56:3-4

3. Mike shared six observations about David's response to suffering:
 - David turned to the Lord
 - David acknowledged that he was at the end of his rope
 - David trusted God in the midst of his fear
 - David's trust came from God's revealed truth
 - David believed that God was both sovereign and good
 - David's future hope was built on God's past faithfulness

Which one of these observations do you need to cling to right now and why? How does hearing David's response in the midst of suffering encourage you and/or challenge you?

4. Fear was a gift that moved David to trust the Lord. Fear drove David *toward* the Lord. When our circumstances don't change, we must daily choose to trust God in the midst of what we're going through. How do you see God using fear in your own life to move you toward *Him*? If not fear, what else is He using in your life to draw you *toward* Himself?

CLOSING CHALLENGE

In light of what was shared from Question 4 above, pray for one another.