

Sermon Discussion Guide Week of 10/16/2016

> Icebreaker:

What is your favorite season of the year- why? What is your least favorite season of the year- why?

> Announcements:

If you haven't already, take time to go over the Lifegroup Covenant.

Invite a friend to join your LifeGroup and to attend our series "Rain."

➤ Prayer Time:

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Week #3 The problem with...

God is working behind the scenes in our world and in each of our lives. How have you seen God use supposed "coincidences" or "accidents" in a way that surprised you? (ex- from week 1- Glenn meeting Denys as her party).

Describe someone who has helped you deal with problems and difficulties in your life? What Christ like qualities did they demonstrate? Did suffering in their own lives make them more able to identify with your struggles?

If you suffered like Ken Bae- stuck in prison, malnourished, isolated, separated from loved ones, with failing health, dealing with a brutal physical routine and with no hope of change, what might you have felt? How did a change in Ken's prayers from "Lord send me home" to "Lord use me" radically change his perspective, feelings and attitude? How might a shifting of our prayers from "Lord do this for me" to "Lord use me" radically change us?

God works behind the scenes to comfort us. What do the following verses say about God's comforting presence in the midst of our suffering: Romans 8:37-39; Psalm 27:13-14; John 16:33; Philippians 4:6?

How have you seen God use trials and tribulations to grow someone's faith? What do the following verses say about God's work in growing us when we struggle and suffer: Romans 5:1-5; James 1:2-5; 1 Peter 5:10-11; 1 Peter 5:12-19 especially 19; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Romans 12:12

Why is crawling up on our Heavenly Father's lap sometimes difficult when we face a scary or stressful situation? Why is it so important that we do?

> Conversational Prayer: Dear God show me...