



**NOTES FOR PERSONAL APPLICATION:
A “Tune-up” for Living Our Lifesong**

THEME:

As you look back on your life, can you pinpoint places that you have felt God’s presence? List any of these times that come to mind. Do you have Scripture that has spoken to you during times of trial, trust, joy, lament, etc.? List those passages. If you do not have any, use the following passages as a starting point: Ps. 27:1; Ps. 37:3-5; Jer. 29:11-14; Rom. 8:37-39; 2 Cor. 12: 9-10.

VARIATION:

Think of the “variations” in life that you are currently experiencing. Consider how the Scripture passage you chose above might speak to you in future “variations” of life – joy, sorrow, pain, trust, fear, etc.

TENSION:

List any “variations” right now in your life that are currently producing “tension.” As David did, write a prayer to God that is open and honest, listing your fears and concerns.

HARMONY:

God’s living Word is vital to our relationship (harmony) with God. This week: 1) Choose a short portion of the passage you chose. 2) Take a few minutes each day to re-read these words. 3) Let it speak over and over again to your soul throughout the day. 4) Speak these words aloud, if possible. 5) Write them down. 6) Meditate on these words as a source for your music, art, writing, gardening, sporting, etc. 7) Consider how you might better live this Scripture out in words and action. 8) Discuss your Scripture with a friend or family member. 9) Let God’s Word return over and over to you, dwelling in your soul.

RESOLUTION/HOPE:

Just as many great songs conclude with a sense of resolution, so many of the Psalms end with a sense of resolution and hope in God. At the end of your week, take time to write a short prayer of resolution or hope, just as David did in Psalm 27:13-14, relating back to the Scripture passage you meditated on all week.

Psalm 27 – MY LIFESONG

Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion*

Read Psalm 27. Use these questions to direct your study:

V. 1 – List some of the ways that God’s presence has been indicated by “light” in the Bible (i.e. creation, pillar of fire at night in Exodus, etc.). For David, remaining in God’s refuge, or presence, was his strength. How can you practice remaining in God’s presence and strength, instead of your own strength? Why is fear the opposite of remaining in God’s abiding presence? How often does fear guide your decisions and actions?

V. 2 – Can you identify with the feeling David had that people wanted him to fail, or when David described enemies that wanted to eat his flesh?

V. 3 – David was a man of war. He knew the difference between attacking, remaining, and retreating. How is remaining in God’s presence different than attacking or retreating? Which of these three actions (attacking, remaining, retreating) are placing trust in the Strength of Jehovah, and which of these actions are working in our own strength?

V. 4 – God called David “a man after his own heart.” What can we learn from David about living a life of worship from these phrases?: 1) *dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life*, 2) *behold the beauty of the Lord*, and 3) *enquire in his temple*. How do we let God set up His temple in our life and heart?

V. 5 – Describe how we can be hidden away in God, and yet set “upon a rock.” How can the balance of these two tensions provide harmony?

V. 6 – How does God use the words of Scripture to “lift up our heads” amidst trials and troubles? What is a sacrifice of joy, and how does that relate to us singing our Lifesong?

V. 7 – When we commune with God, we are able to fully cry to God for help and mercy. Can you think of times you have done this in the past? How does this link back to verse 1 that says, “The Lord is my salvation”? How is living in God’s mercy and grace a process? Do you identify with David, who had extreme trust and desperation at the same time? How can trust and desperation align?

V. 8-12 – David describes a mutual sharing, or “seeking.” How can a life lived in and through God’s Word enable us to take part in this mutual seeking, or relationship with God? Why do you think David described God’s way as a “plain path”? How can remaining in God help us face our fears of abandonment or those who might intend evil toward us?

V. 13-14 - How can we actively, instead of passively, wait on the Lord? How does the Word of God play a role in our waiting on the Lord and continuing to sing our Lifesong?