

Bible Study: Our Avenger

Purpose: Following the September 11, 2001 attack on the Washington D.C. and New York, this topic seemed appropriate. Have the group read Psalm 94, in which David questions the Lord, Why do the wicked prosper? Then have them read through Psalm 86, in which David asks God for mercy.

Icebreaker: Ask people to describe the word forever. Give a dictionary definition of it. Describe forever on terms of a number line, infinity backwards & forwards. Use example of looking at double-mirrors. You can't see forever, because your own humanity gets in the way. How long do circumstances last? How long does God last?

PSALM 94: ~David crying out to God for justice upon the wicked.

Verses 1-3

- Q: Who is the God of vengeance?**
- Q: What emotion is exhibited here?**
- Q: Can you identify with how David was feeling here?**

Verses 4-11

- Q: What is the attitude of the enemy towards their deeds?**
- Q: Is God really blind to what's happening?**
- Q: What does David mean about the thoughts of man?**

Verses 12-15

- Q: Why should we be happy when disciplined?**
- Q: Why can we be certain God won't forget us?**
- Q: If we are righteous, what do we receive?**

Verses 16-23

- Q: Who stands up for us when we need help?**
- Q: What can we conclude about the wicked?**
- Q: Name some characteristics of a stronghold.**

PSALM 86: ~David's supplication for help from his enemies.

Verses 1-7

- Q: What is David's attitude towards God?**
- Q: What is he asking from God?**
- Q: What is he giving to God?**

Verses 8-13

- Q: What are some of the greatest monuments in the world?**
- Q: Do they compare to God's works?**
- Q: We have a choice, do we bow now or later?**
- Q: If we know the ways of the Lord, what results?**

Verses 14-17

- Q: When we feel like we're being attacked, what can we do?**
- Q: We are quick to anger. Is God this way?**
- Q: When we are servants of Him, does that make us weak?**
- Q: If we are hated for loving God, what happens?**

1 JOHN 5:5 ~ John's assurance of ultimate victory.

- Q: How can we be assured of victory?**
- Q: Can simple faith conquer the world?**
- Q: Is our victory in this life, or the next?**

MATTHEW 5:38-41 ~ Jesus speaks on retaliation.

- Q: Isn't this contradictory to the character of God?**
- Q: Was Jesus a wimp?**
- Q: Did he have to die?**
- Q: Aren't you glad Jesus went the extra mile for us?**