#### ASSURANCE - PROMISES TO HOLD ON TO





#### **STARTER:**

Remembering Bible passages that bring us comfort or joy is an important part of our walk as believers. What are your favourite ways to bring to mind such passages for when you want reassurance from the Lord?

Our first **Psalm 119 study** looked at a strong trust in God's word for guidance.

Today, the Psalmist is seeking assurance from the Bible, as his mood changes.



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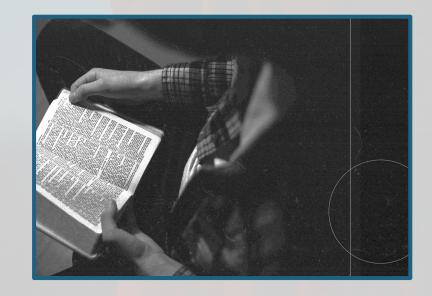
# **BIBLE STUDY**



#### Read Psalm 119:81-82

My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word. My eyes fail, looking for your promise; I say, "When will you comfort me?"

- How would you describe the Psalmist's mood in this section of Psalm 119 (look at verses 81-88)?
- In verse 81, the Psalmist says 'my soul faints with longing for your salvation'.



The word used here for salvation does not mean 'justification by faith through grace' as we may understand our salvation now. It means 'victory or deliverance from an enemy'. Asking God for victory over an enemy – how might this be a description of our walk as believers? What enemies are you aware of in your life at the moment?





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#### Psalm 119:81-82

- Discouragement has turned many away from faith. Why do you think discouragement might first take root in the life of a believer?
- The second part of verse 81 has the important words 'but I have put my hope in your word'. What building blocks do you think we need to put into place in order to reach this 'but' when we're going through a situation of difficulty and struggle as a believer?
- What do you think might happen to our view of God if we don't reach the point of hope in God's word?
- Read verse 82 and also 84. Why do you think waiting is often part of the faith journey?



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# **GOING DEEPER**

# What can help us to learn to trust God when we feel out of control?

Spend some time looking at these verses and discussing how we can use them as foundations for our current situation:

- 1. God's ways are higher than our ways.

  Look up Colossians 1: 16-17; Isaiah 46: 9-10.
- 2. God is wiser than us he knows what he's doing. Look at Romans 11: 33 and Proverbs 3: 5-6.
- 3. God's love is perfect and unchanging.

  Look at Lamentations 3 vv 22-26.

  (The word for salvation in verse 26 is the same as in Psalm 119:81).

  Romans 8: 31-32.



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# WATCH | PRAY

#### WATCH

Use this song
as a prayer in your group
(Elevation Worship - Do It Again)

https://www.youtube.com/watch ?v=0B\_InQIITxU



#### **PRAY**

Pray using the words of Isaiah 55 vv 8-11 to remind each other that God is our Lord, and that his word accomplishes what he wants from it.

What encouragement could your small group give someone whose eyes are heavy with weariness as they wait for God to fulfil his promise? Pray for each other.