

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another... (John 13:34)

- *Internal:* How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External:* Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read our primary text. Have you ever gone through a season where God felt distant? What did that feel like?
Maybe dryness, restlessness, sadness, or confusion (a "wilderness" type season). This Psalm gives language to these experiences and shows that feeling distant from God is not the same as abandoning faith.
3. What does this Psalm teach us about the nature of true worship?
True worship flows from deep desire for God Himself, not merely from ritual, comfort, or blessings. The Psalmist longs for God's presence, not just relief from pain.
4. Have you ever experienced this type of deep longing or desire for God's presence in your life? What do you think was the catalyst for that type of longing?
[Example: My have been a season of difficulty where you longed for God's nearness or could have been a very intentional season of pursuing the Lord.]
4. What does Psalm 42 teach us to do when our emotions contradict our beliefs?
Sometimes it is necessary to preach the truth to ourselves. Acknowledging our emotions and lamenting is appropriate for a season, but reminding/declaring to your soul the simple truths of God is spiritual nourishment.
5. How can this psalm shape the way we support others who are struggling?
It teaches patience, empathy, and honesty. Rather than rushing people out of sorrow, we walk with them and point them gently toward the hope of God.
6. How does Psalm 42 prepare us to understand the gospel?
Psalm 42 expresses longing for God's presence—something ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. In Jesus we can find rest. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11-28).
7. What phrase or verse from Psalm 42 do you need to carry with you this week?
[Dialogue]
8. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?
[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to practice sharing the gospel with the group?

CONFESSTION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? *[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy]*
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- Multiple AI Resources