

## Discussion Questions 6.11.17

The questions this week aren't designed off the sermon text. Next week we are beginning on a new teaching series "Stories of the Kingdom" based on the parables of Jesus and will return to crafting small group questions based on the sermon text.

### Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

### Questions

#### **Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.**

1. Share a story of a time when you were far from God but he rescued you.
2. What are some of the ways that God has set you free?

### Background

The book of Psalms is a collection of poems and songs that served as the hymnal for ancient Israel. In it you will find several different types of psalms, the three most common are the hymn, thanksgiving and lamentation. Psalm 107 is a psalm of thanksgiving. In it the psalmist writes of all the ways people can wander or willfully choose to walk away from God and the corresponding ways God comes after them when they cry out for help.

Read Psalm 107:10-16

#### **Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.**

1. Why were the people sitting in utter darkness?
2. What did the people have to do for God to come and break their chains?
3. What is the result of being set free from the darkness?

#### **Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.**

1. When have you most felt like you were spiritually sitting in utter darkness?
2. When God came to rescue you, did it happen all at once or was it incremental?
3. What does thankfulness look like in your life?

#### **Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.**

1. How do you bring the Good News to those sitting in darkness without making them feel like they should just get over whatever is making them sad?
2. What steps can you take to bring love and compassion to those who are sitting in the darkness of depression?
3. How does your own thankfulness impact the way you love others?

### Closing

Spend time praying for wisdom through this time of transition as the church casts votes for the new lead pastor. Also pray for those who are in darkness that they would see and be drawn to the light of Jesus.

Reminder: In order to avoid becoming isolated or insulated from the world we have to be open to all the stories of what is happening in the world. Then we need to seek out opportunities to be Jesus in the places we can reach or are called to participate.