

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Oakley Alva, Women's Pastor to Young Adults

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This week Oakley Alva continued in our series, *Summer in the Psalms*, acknowledging there are times where we question God's goodness, especially in times of grief or trouble. Asaph, the author of Psalm 77 is an example of how to find comfort and consolation in those days.

In days of trouble:

- Seek God.
- Be honest with God.
- Remember what God has done.

## SCRIPTURE

### PSALM 77

To the leader: according to Jeduthun. Of Asaph. A Psalm.

- <sup>1</sup> I cry aloud to God,  
aloud to God, that he may hear me.
- <sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;  
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;  
my soul refuses to be comforted.
- <sup>3</sup> I think of God, and I moan;  
I meditate, and my spirit faints. Selah
- <sup>4</sup> You keep my eyelids from closing;  
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
- <sup>5</sup> I consider the days of old  
and remember the years of long ago.
- <sup>6</sup> I commune with my heart in the night;  
I meditate and search my spirit:
- <sup>7</sup> "Will the Lord spurn forever  
and never again be favorable?
- <sup>8</sup> Has his steadfast love ceased forever?  
Are his promises at an end for all time?
- <sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious?  
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" Selah
- <sup>10</sup> And I say, "It is my grief  
that the right hand of the Most High has changed."
- <sup>11</sup> I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord;  
I will remember your wonders of old.
- <sup>12</sup> I will meditate on all your work  
and muse on your mighty deeds.
- <sup>13</sup> Your way, O God, is holy.  
What god is so great as our God?
- <sup>14</sup> You are the God who works wonders;  
you have displayed your might among the peoples.

- <sup>15</sup> With your strong arm you redeemed your people,  
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah
- <sup>16</sup> When the waters saw you, O God,  
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;  
the very deep trembled.
- <sup>17</sup> The clouds poured out water;  
the skies thundered;  
your arrows flashed on every side.
- <sup>18</sup> The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;  
your lightnings lit up the world;  
the earth trembled and shook.
- <sup>19</sup> Your way was through the sea,  
your path through the mighty waters,  
yet your footprints were unseen.
- <sup>20</sup> You led your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Oakley's message?
2. Read Psalm 77:1-4. What is Asaph's response to troubled times?
3. When was a time you responded to days of trouble this way?
4. Read Psalm 77:5-9. How is the writer being honest with God?
5. Read Psalm 77:10-20. What does Asaph remember to help him find comfort? With our gift of additional time, what are other times of faithfulness we can recall to comfort us?
6. How does remembering God's faithfulness help in time of grief or trouble?
7. How can we pray for you?

## PRAYER

Whether in the midst of hard times and grief, or in good times, thank God for his faithfulness. Seek him through prayer, be honest with him about where you are right now in your faith. Remember his goodness and grace, and thank him for his new mercies each morning. Pray through the following Scripture as a reminder of God's promises

- Does he favor me?  
o Lamentations 3:32  
*"Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love."*
- Does he still love me, unconditionally?  
o Psalm 94:14  
*"For the Lord will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage."*
- Will his promises come to pass?  
o Hebrews 6:18  
*"...so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us."*
- Is he still gracious and compassionate?  
o Psalm 103:17  
*"But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children."*