

Downcast
Psalm 42
October 24, 2021

I. Ongoing, persistent suffering is the everyday reality of even the strongest of Christians.

A. Homebound church members are often some of our best worshippers.

B. Homebound church members often have to put up with peoples' opinions of their pain.

C. Many homebound church members have a tremendous history of service to the church and were key pieces the Lord used in its growth.

D. Homebound church members testify that the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

E. Homebound church members lead us in hope for the salvation of God.

II. Suffering is temporary, but worship is forever.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read Psalm 42.
2. Share about the times in your life you felt closest to God. How deep was your desperation for Him in those moments? What contributed to that desperation?
3. Have you ever suffered to the point where people around you questioned God, as the Psalmist writes in verse 3 & 10? How did that make you feel?
4. Have you ever experienced an extended period of time away from church due to an illness or disability? How did that make you reflect on times past when you worshiped with others without hindrance?
5. How can someone proclaim God's steadfast love, testify to His song within him, call Him the God of His life (V. 8), then say God has forgotten Him (V. 9), then finish with praise to God again (V. 11)? How can the Psalmist think all those things at once?
6. Pray for our church, that we would care well for homebound church members. Tonight's prayer meeting cancelled for the Church Planning Meeting. Register from the home page on the church website to be emailed a Zoom link.

Church Bible Reading Plan

Bible Reading Plan: Jeremiah 25-27

October Memory Verses: Jeremiah 10:23-24

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

BEFORE Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

If you have not done so already, register from the www.apollobaptist.org home page by clicking the image for the Prayer Meeting. The registration will last through 12/26/2021.

Register with your name and email address.

Click on the emailed Zoom link at the time of the Prayer Meeting.

Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

- TONIGHT's prayer meeting cancelled due to the Church Planning Meeting.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain, Steve & Joy V. in Turkey, David & Comfort J. in Nigeria, Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona, Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia, Sylvia M. at ASU West, Arizona, John T. in California, Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand, and Jules S. in Thailand
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an on-line setting, or a home school setting our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Anita O., Alea O., Andi P. (son and brother), Ruth S. (mother), Reginald (sister), Monica M. (mother, JoAnn T.), Jeanette C., Ruthie C., Floyd and Karen C. (daughter, niece, Mary E.), Family of Char B.
- Those struggling with on-going health and other issues:
Michelle L. (constant pain issues, waiting on results from an MRI), Debbie P. (broke her leg and is now in rehab, still cannot put full weight on that leg), Twyla D. (had a stroke and now has a weakened right side), Ruthie C. (recovery from surgery), Linda C. (waiting test results), Gaylon K. (home therapy after hip surgery), Mary R. (awaiting kidney transplant), Debbie B. (blood clots in legs)
- Others that you are aware of