

# I DOUBT IT – LIFE Group Study Guide

## WHAT'S BETTER THAN GOD?

Pastor Marcus Preciado – May 1, 2016



### Introduction:

In this week's message, Pastor Marcus looked at Solomon's recounting of all the things that he tried in life to bring fulfillment. At the end of the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon states that all that matters is to fear God and to keep his commands. The things we pursue for fulfillment today isn't much different than it was 3000 years ago.

### Opening Discussion:

1. Share about a time when you pursued fulfillment or happiness and found it to be hollow or empty.

### Bible Study:

The Psalms are a collection of songs and prayers offered to God by the people of Israel. While most are written by King David, others wrote psalms as well. In today's study, we're going to look at a psalm written by Asaph, one of the worship leaders during the time of David. This psalm explores the feelings of someone who is wrestling with whether or not it's worth it to follow God.

#### → Read Psalm 73

2. How do verses 2-3, 13-14, and 21-22 describe the writer's struggle?
3. Make a list of the things that the writer says characterized the life of the wicked (v3-12):
4. Describe a time when you had similar feelings toward someone who rejected God...
5. In v13-14, the writer hits bottom – put in your own words what he was feeling:

6. What causes you to lose perspective in life and get discouraged like Asaph did?
7. V16-17 is the turning point of this Psalm. What opened Asaph's eyes to see things correctly?
8. What truths did Asaph come to believe about the wicked? About himself? About God?

### **Apply it to Your Life:**

9. What is causing you to lose perspective and lose heart in your relationship with God?
10. What truth from Scripture addresses your situation? Pray that God would reveal his truth about your situation and give you his perspective on life!

### **Prayer Time:**

Hand out 3x5 cards and pens to everyone and ask them to write their name on the card and the greatest need that they want to bring to the Lord in prayer. Then break into groups of 3-4, exchange cards, and pray for each other using the prayer cards. Take the cards home with you this week and pray daily for the person and the request.

### **Next Steps:**

**BRING:** *Invite your friends to join you this Sunday at one of the Rock campuses for "I DOUBT IT," and then invite them to join you at your LIFE Group next week!*

### **Take it Home:**

Continue the 21-day Challenge of reading 1 Chapter/day in the Gospel of John (see the April 17 study at:

<http://www.sdrock.com/uploads/docs/discussionquestions/2016-04-17-sgquestions.pdf>)

Further study: Matthew 6:25-34, Psalm 37, 1 Timothy 4:6-10

## **LIFE Group Leader Tip of the Week:**

### ➤ **LEAD A GREAT STUDY:**

- **Cultivate a life-giving atmosphere.** Be a source of encouragement. You do not need to know all the answers or be the source of all wisdom. The Holy Spirit is there to help and guide you.
- **Give time for discussion.** Avoid doing all the talking. A good guideline is the “70-30” rule. Approximately 70% of the speaking should be from members and 30% from the leader.
- **Keep the discussion positive.** Carefully lead the conversation back to the topic when tangents occur. Where sensitive issues or complex questions arise in your group, follow up one-on-one after the meeting.
- **Steer the discussion in a direction where everyone can participate.** Remember that some people may not grasp phrases that are common to us (i.e. spiritual warfare).
- **Be prepared to change the direction of the meeting if needed.** The primary goal is to create an environment where people feel loved and accepted.
- **Men should minister to men and women to women.** Couples may minister to a single.

