



With God on Our Side

Psalm 124 | Session 10.39

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

Context

Start by asking:

- What is the scariest "near miss" you ever had on the road?
- How do such incidents make you feel about other people, or about God?
- What are some other places where you feel that God might have been with you in some special way?
- When does it seem that God is not necessarily with you and how do you cope with that?

Content

Read Psalm 124, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What kind of events might have given rise to the creation of this kind of psalm?
- What images does this psalmist use to tell the story, and how do they "work" as illustrations?
- How do you think the psalmist knew God was on their side?
- At what points does our own narrative intersect with the narrative of this scripture?
- At what points might the hearers of this passage have felt that God was not with them and how might that psalm go?

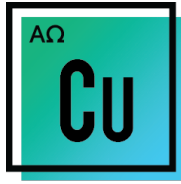
Closure

Continue by asking:

- How does someone know whether God is on one side or another in a given situation?
- In what ways might the knowledge that God may be on both or neither sides affect the way we see people who might oppose us?
- What is the difference between having God on our side and being on God's side and how do we know it?
- How might we recognize God's presence in the small things, instead of just the major events?
- What can we do to help other people see God in everyday things?

Close with prayer.

Writer: Jon Parks



CURRENT

session page

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Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)

Context

Read this [story about Hurricane Florence](#) and ask:

- What are your thoughts on this gentleman and how does his story affect your own thoughts about whether someone should evacuate or stay in this situation?
- Since there are legitimate reasons for not being able to evacuate, how can we help those unable to leave?
- In what ways does your decision to evacuate indicate your trust or distrust in God?
- What can we learn about ourselves in situations like this?

Content

Read Psalm 124, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- At what points in our lives do we need to see the reassurances of God being with us?
- What inspiration can we take from knowing God was there for the Israelites throughout their trials and tribulations?
- If we know God will be with us in all sorts of tribulations and trials, why are Christians so quick to hit the panic button and live in fear?
- What can we learn about how we should react to issues and situations that test us or push us to our limits?
- How do you think God reacts to when we don't have enough faith to trust that God will save us?

Closure

Listen to "Have a Little Faith in Me" and ask:

- At what points do you think humans show that they tend to trust themselves more than they should?
- Under what circumstances are you least likely to trust someone else, and why?
- What are the primary challenges to our faith and how does trust affect our ability to respond to those?
- How do you think our lives would be better if we let our faith be more proactive and trust it?
- How can we teach others to trust, especially after they have been hurt by someone else they trusted?

Pray for strength to trust in your faith.

Writers: Crystal Shepherd and Steve McClain



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Before the Session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Materials Needed: Paper and pens.
- Encourage your group to listen to the FaithElement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media)

Context

Read Psalm 124, and watch the Bible Background Video.

This is a reflective review of a media source.

Reflection

Tell the group: "In this song, Nicole Nordeman reflects on her life over time – the things that happened, and God's presence in each season. Listen to her journey and her names for God that tell you about God's place in her life. Play "I Am – Nicole Nordeman LYRICS". Invite individuals to reflect on their own life journeys by giving each person a piece of paper and pen before having

them fold their paper into quarters and labeling each section as follows: "childhood," "teenager," "young adult," "adult." Encourage everyone to list words or phrases that relate to each section of their lives, including who God was/is to them at that time. What names would they give to God in each section, based on their experiences?

- What did you notice about your life, and about God as you did this?
- As you reflect on this activity, for what particular aspects/things for which you are thankful?

Close with prayers of thanksgiving.

Writer: Joy Yee



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session page

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Context

Play the Driving video and ask:

- What do you think of the reaction of the passengers in this video?
- At what points do you think they most wanted to have their own brake pedal so they could stop the car themselves?
- How do you feel about the teen getting the right answer to the left turn on red question?
- Since so many inexperienced drivers eventually become decent drivers, what does this say about driver's education?
- At what points is this similar to the way people grow in faith?

Content

Read [Psalm 124](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- In what ways could you relate to Nikki's young driver scary experience?
- When have you felt like only a power greater than yourself protected you or was on your side in a time of extreme stress?
- Why would they sing a song about a time of extreme terror on a regular basis?
- In what ways does our knowledge of the Exodus event influence our reading of words like: "flood," "torrent," and "raging waters?"
- Why is remembering special times of divine presence important. both for them and for us today?

Closure

Continue by asking

- How we know know the Lord is on our side when we have a parent in the hospital, a loss of a spouse, a serious life-threatening car accident, and or a small child in the ICU?

Play the [Shoulders music video](#) and ask:

- How can we know that that presence of Jesus is with us this week when we face difficulties?
- How can we learn when we are actually on Jesus' shoulders like in the music video?
- How do we continue to follow the Jesus after tragedy?
- What can we do to help others who face tragedy?

Writer: Jon Self



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Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Provide some string and a ring of some sort for every two members of the group, and have something to use as a countdown timer. (See Context)
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Listen to the FaithElement podcast for this session.

Intro

Play the Positive attitude video and ask:

- How would you rank, on a scale of one to five, your attitude when things don't seem to go your way?
- Why do we let our circumstances determine our attitude?
- What cheers you up when you are down and why?
- Who cheers you up the most and how do they do it?

Context

Have everyone sit in a circle, each with a partners who is sitting directly across from them. Give each pair a string of yarn, fishing line, or whatever else you have that stretches from both partners across the middle of the circles, letting the strands from various partners overlap, as well as something that can travel the length of the string, like some type of plastic ring, key ring, or something else with a hole for the string to pass though. Once each pair is prepared has something, tell the group that you are about to start a three-minute timer. While it counts down, their goal is to make their ring travel the length of the string as many times as possible, getting one point for each time the ring successfully makes it to the other side.

After ensuring that everyone understands what they are supposed to do, start the timer. When time is up, stop the activity and ask:

- What was it like having such a crazy mess happening in the middle of the circle?
- What was the most challenging part of doing this, and what would have helped you be more successful?
- How do you tend to respond when you circumstances don't work out the way you had planned and why?
- What would help you to be able to not be frustrated when life treats you unfairly?

Content

Read [Psalm 124](#), and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What would have been the result in the Lord was not on Israel's side, according to the author?
- How do you usually respond when you feel that God has protected you from something?
- When in our lives do we tend to praise God the most?
- Why do we tend to draw nearer to God when we feel helpless, only to need reminding of God's acting in our lives when they are not?

Closure

Play the [NY Times clip](#) and ask:

- How do you feel when athletes praise God for winning a game or doing something good?
- Why do you think they don't praise God when something bad happens to them?
- Why would God care about the results of an athletic competition?
- Besides athletes, what other groups claim to have God on their side?
- What happens when adversarial groups both claim to have God on their side, and why might God choose sides?
- What do you think is the secret to being able to praise God in good times or bad?

Close this session in prayer.

Writer: Don Breeden



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session page

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Context (From the Current Session Page)

Read this [story about Hurricane Florence](#) and ask:

- What are your thoughts on this gentleman and how does his story affect your own thoughts about whether someone should evacuate or stay in this situation?
- Since there are legitimate reasons for not being able to evacuate, how can we help those unable to leave?
- In what ways does your decision to evacuate indicate your trust or distrust in God?
- What can we learn about ourselves in situations like this?

Content (From the Mind Session Page)

Read Psalm 124, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

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- What images does this psalmist use to tell the story, and how do they "work" as illustrations?
- How do you think the psalmist knew God was on their side?
- At what points does our own narrative intersect with the narrative of this scripture?
- At what points might the hearers of this passage have felt that God was not with them and how might that psalm go?

Closure (From the Media Session Page)

Continue by asking

- How we know know the Lord is on our side when we have a parent in the hospital, a loss of a spouse, a serious life-threatening car accident, and or a small child in the ICU?

Play the Shoulders music video and ask:

- How can we know that that presence of Jesus is with us this week when we face difficulties?
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