



EUCCHARISTIA: THE GENEROSITY OF GOD'S PRESENCE

November 24, 2019

Pastor Brad Williams

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

MAIN TEXT(S):

2 Corinthians 11:24-27; Genesis 45:4-8; Psalm 139:7-12; Psalm 46:1-3; Philippians 4:5b-7

SUMMARY

God generously gives us His protection, which is something we should be grateful for. However, there is a tension in God's protection. God doesn't always keep us safe, at least not the way we think He should. The lives of many people in the Bible, including Paul and Joseph, show that God has never promised us we won't suffer physically or emotionally. God clearly does not protect us by keeping us safe and sound.

However, that doesn't mean that God doesn't protect us in the most important ways. Though God may not always keep us from physical harm, the Scriptures show He does provide His presence and protection for our heart, mind, and soul. Even though we may go through great difficulties, God promises to go through whatever we go through with us. That is something we can be grateful for.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What other words or pictures come to your mind when you hear the word "protection"?
2. What are you most grateful for this week?
3. Has there ever been a time in your life where it was obvious that God was protecting you? What happened?
4. Last time we met, we talked about [whatever you talked about]. Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice? Has it has an impact on your life in any way?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What words would you use to describe Paul's life after reading 2 Corinthians 11:24-27? What does this description teach you about God's protection?
2. According to Joseph in Genesis 45:4-8, who sent Joseph to Egypt and why? From your memory or by looking at the previous chapters, what circumstances did God use to get Joseph where he was?
3. In Psalm 139:7-12, what do you learn about God's presence and protection?
4. What do you learn about God and our circumstances from Psalm 46:1-3?
5. What outcome does Paul promise to those who present their requests to God in Philippians 4:5-7? What parts of us will be protected?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. How do Christians usually think of God's protection? How does that compare to the texts and sermon for this week?

2. Pastor Brad said that differences between how think of God's protection and how God protects us can cause us to either be confused or disappointed. How have you seen people experience confusion or disappointment about God's protection?
3. Do you know anyone, like Paul, that has experienced great adversity, maybe even because they follow Jesus? Do you think God is protecting them? Why or why not?
4. How have you seen bad circumstances come together for a good outcome? This could be someone you know or someone you know of. How does this demonstrate God's work and protection?
5. How does God provide his presence in the midst of difficult circumstances? How have you seen God's presence positively impact people, even in the midst of suffering?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Do these texts/the sermon change anything about your understanding of God's protection?
2. Have you ever been confused or disappointed by God's protection? What happened?
3. Do you struggle with the idea of God's protection? Why or why not? If yes, what causes you to struggle?
4. How has God's presence helped you in the midst of adversity? How could this encourage you or others?
5. How have bad circumstances and suffering been used by God in your life? How does this increase your trust in God's protection?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. If you are having difficulty understanding God's protection, how might your group pray for you as you seek to better understand God's character and actions?
2. What can you do this week to remind yourself of how God has protected you in the past and will protect you in the future?
3. If you are currently going through a tough time, how can your group pray for and encourage you this week as you seek to trust God's protection in the midst of it?