

Group Gathering Question:

As we long to go back to some of our favorite places, what is the first restaurant or retail store or other place you will go when it is safe to do so?

Read this week's scripture and discuss:

1. List the verbs describing God's activities in Psalm 147. Which ones are speaking verbs? Which ones are doing verbs? Why do you think the Psalmist describes God uses these verbs?
2. God is powerful both in his creation and in the way he cares for his people. What comes to mind when you think of power? Are you more likely to have creative powers or compassionate powers (healing, binding up wounds, sustaining the humble)?
3. Do you feel like God delights in you? Have you experienced what it is like to have someone delight in you? How did you know they delighted in you?
4. What do you think it means to fear God?
5. Are there ways that help to cultivate in you a spirit of worship or giving God praise (i.e. being in nature, reflecting on God's faithfulness at a particular time in your life, etc.)?
6. Read again verses 3, 6, 11, 14. What do these verses say about how God cares for his people? What can it say to us during this global pandemic time of uncertainty?

prayer requests

- > For healing for Lisa Clyngenpeel and Dan Duke,
- > Prayers of comfort for Bobbi Rounds in the death of her sister and for Karen Strandjord in the death of her father.
- > Pray for God's provision for the people around the world who struggle with starvation during this COVID pandemic. Please bless them with opportunities to obtain food from humanitarian organizations.

God cares. God is powerful. Psalm 147 speaks of God's care and God's power. God is the all-powerful Creator yet still cares for his people deeply. This is a wonderful truth that the Psalmist expresses beautifully here. Read again in verses 3, 6, 11 and 14 how God cares. And take time to give God praise for his power which he uses combined with his compassion.

1. The Lord is active. God lifts up, heals, binds, takes pleasure in, grants, sends. Many of these verbs are active, not passive. God is a God of action, for the world and for his people.
2. We often think of power with strength. We might think of nations who have strong leaders and powerful military or a corporation or team who has a strong CEO or coach. But God expresses his power in both his creation and in his caring. Jesus expressed his power by laying it down and going to the cross so that we might live.
3. God takes pleasure in those who fear him. God takes pleasure in those whose hope is in his steadfast love. God doesn't (and Jesus didn't while on the earth) care as much about earthly wealth and power but cares for his people. This truth can be for us too.
4. Fear can mean things besides "being scared of." Discuss other meanings for fear such as respect or revere. Does this change the way you think about verse 147:11?
5. Ask your group to share when they have felt compelled to praise or worship God.
6. God heals, God lifts up, God takes pleasure in those whose hope is in his love, and God grants peace and fills us up. What does this say to us? God is sovereign, God is powerful. God lifts up and heals. God cares deeply. These are great reminders during this worldwide and local pandemic.