

# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / NOVEMBER 24

## TO APPLY, NOT REHASH, THE SERMON

### Read

Read Psalm 88 and consider making some observations about the passage.

### Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “Sometimes our lives feel like Psalm 88, but the fact that it’s in the Bible shows that you can be honest with God in those chapters.”
- “Even though it feels like dark chaos and unanswered prayer, Psalm 89 assures us: God’s steadfast love rules over everything in your life. While it may not be immediately apparent, his love shapes the glorious conclusion of his plan.”
- “We behold God’s steadfast love in his Son; we experience it in his presence with us, and it emboldens us to pray.”
- “Jesus walked through the reality of Psalm 88 so that for us, it would only ever be an illusion.”
- “Pray Psalm 88 to God, honestly, but then preach Psalm 89 to yourself: ‘I choose not to fear; God is with me. I choose not to despair; God is good.’”

### Group Discussion

1. Heman's Psalm 88 ends with, "Darkness is my closest friend." Why do you think God included such a raw expression of despair in Scripture?
2. Read Psalm 89:8–14. How does the description of God’s sovereignty and steadfast love challenge or encourage us when life feels chaotic?
3. The sermon highlighted the juxtaposition of Psalm 88’s lament and Psalm 89’s praise. How do these psalms together reflect the Christian life? How can you regularly remind yourself of this balance between honest lament and praise?
4. Pastor J.D. encouraged us to “pray Psalm 88 honestly” and “preach Psalm 89 to ourselves.” How can you put this into practice in your current circumstances?

#### DIG DEEPER

- Psalm 89:9 says, “You rule the raging sea; when its waves rise, you still them.” In the Old Testament, the sea symbolized judgment and fear (Genesis 7; Exodus 14; Joshua 3; Jonah 1). In the New Testament, Jesus literally calms a storm (Mark 4:35–41), showing his authority over the sea. Reflect on how God’s power over chaos all through the Bible finds its ultimate expression in Jesus. How does this deepen your trust in God during life’s storms?

#### PRAYER

- Ask God to grant us honesty in our relationship with him, asking him to meet us in the raw, unfiltered emotions of our Psalm 88 moments.
- Pray for faith to trust in God’s steadfast love and sovereignty, even when his goodness feels hidden or his plan is unclear.