

# THE WHOLE STORY

---

From Genesis to Revelation

## Psalm 73

### ***Introduction:***

This weekend Pastor J.D. walked us through Psalm 73 to show us how the reality of suffering takes on a vastly different meaning when viewed through the lens of Scripture.

Each week our team organizes the weekly small group study guides around an inductive Bible study method called "OIA." We absolutely didn't invent this but it is a great way for you, me and anyone new or seasoned in studying the Bible to work out our salvation by putting God's word into our hearts and minds.

### ***Small Group Bible Study Formula:***

***"OIA" = Observation, Interpretation, Application***

As you use the guides each week you normally see three categories of questions: *sermon response*, *Bible study*, and *group application*. That will remain largely the same week to week. But this week we are going to break down the guide to more clearly give you a picture into this Bible study method that can be used by anyone or any group at any time to study the Bible better.

*Here is a brief glimpse into how to use each type of question:*

- Observation - This is merely looking at the words the Bible actually says. Anyone, Christian or non-Christian, that has an open Bible can answer these questions almost equally well.
- Interpretation - This is forming conclusions based on the words that the Bible says. These questions may be more difficult for non-Christians or new believers to answer. God says in John 14:26 that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things and remind us of what God has said.
- Application - These questions seek to take the conclusions we draw from God's word and allow them to instruct how we should live. These will be the most difficult questions to answer during your group times and the most mature believers may be the only ones able to answer them. Every application of what God has said is not equally correct and therefore this is a great opportunity for the mature believers in a small group to help disciples others through their experience and wisdom.

I hope this glimpse behind the curtain on how we write the weekly small group guides is helpful for you as you lead and participate in small group each week!

### ***Sermon Response Questions:***

1) This sermon challenged the way we view the imbalances of this present world. What from Pastor J.D.'s sermon helped you see God's balance in light of eternity?

**Observation:**            *Have one person read all of Psalm 73.*

2) What words are used to describe the wicked in verses 4-15?

3) In verses 16-17, the Psalmist's proximity to God gives him a new perspective on the wicked he described in verses 4-15. How are the wicked described differently in verses 18-20 because of this new perspective?

4) What specific actions does the author ascribe to God in Psalm 73?

**Interpretation:**

5) Describe the theme and message of this Psalm in one complete sentence.

- Repeated words or phrases can help find the theme. Follow the progression of the author's thoughts. Make an outline of the different sections to help find the theme.

6) Look at verses 16-17 again. What difference does it make to look to God and worship in the midst of frustrating or devastating circumstances? How is Jesus our true and enduring hope in all circumstances?

**Application:**

7) In verses 1-3 Asaph describes both his trust in God and how he "almost stumbled" even within that trust. Describe a situation in your life when your circumstances overwhelmed what you knew to be true of God and you did or almost stumbled.

8) Pastor J.D. said, "Two things destroy envy and doubt - faith and humility." What specific envies and doubts are you dealing with and how can you have faith and humility to combat them?

**Pray:**

- Praise God that he is our refuge and counselor and portion forever.
- Confess to God that there are so many things in the world that compete for our attention and affection other than him and that we so often turn away from him to pursue those things.
- Thank God that he is good to his people and that he is the one who holds our hand when we almost slip and fall.
- Ask God to give you discernment and perspective to think rightly about what is truly valuable and from God.