

The Psalms

2. Psalm 146

Psalm of the Kingdom

Aim: To consider God's plans for the world as revealed through this psalm and how we can be involved in them.

Note to Leaders: *This is a great study to do a few weeks prior to June Project to enthuse people for God's plans to see his Kingdom come and encourage them to join in with that!*

To start with:

Make a 'top ten' list of individuals or institutions that appear to have the most power/ influence in our society and world. What sort of power do they appear to have and how do they use it?

Engaging with the Text:

Read Psalm 146 out loud together

1. What initially strikes you from this psalm?
2. This psalm was probably written while Israel was in exile; captive in Babylon. Go through it again in the light of that - what do you notice that might particularly resonate with the prisoner or oppressed?
3. Who do you think this psalm might particularly help or encourage today? Why?
4. Psalm 146 describes the Kingship and Kingdom of God. How do you respond to this description? How do you reconcile the fact that this isn't what we always see around us?

5. The psalmist calls people to praise God, not simply for who he is, but for how he has been acting in history. It encourages us to praise him in faith for the Kingdom we don't fully see yet. Stories can help us to do that, so take some time to do that:

- a) How has God acted in our church community? (People who have been here longest may be able to help with this!)
- b) How had he acted in our cell community?
- c) How has he acted in your life recently?

What do these things show us about God?

6. As God's people now, how can we partner with God in seeing this Kingdom come? Practically what could each of us do? As a group what could we do?

Reflect and Pray:

Spend some time praying about the things that have come up in your conversation - you might like to pray for those you know who feel trapped or hopeless, or you might like to thank God for what he *has* been doing and pray for those situations where the influence of his authority is needed.

Finally - Pray for the June Project as it approaches, particularly for any activities you are involved in as a cell.

