



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Bible Study Outline

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

TOPIC: Finding Hope in a Terrorized World

TEXT: Psalm 46

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: During the dark days of the Reformation when Martin Luther's life was threatened and when the enemies of the gospel seemed strongest, the reformer would find his friend, Philipp Melanchthon, and say to him, "Let's sing the forty-sixth psalm." Luther loved this psalm because he believed God would defend his people against every assault. Luther even wrote a great hymn based on the psalm-"A Sure Stronghold Our God Is He" (better known to us as "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God").

Psalm 46 was written as a song of deliverance. Perhaps God had rescued Israel from the attack of an enemy or from a plague of illness sweeping the region. Whatever the threat was, God demonstrated his power and his compassion by protecting his people.

Discussion Questions

1. What refuge do you seek out when life seems to be caving in on you? To whom or to what do you turn first for comfort or security?
2. The author of Psalm 46 looks to God for two kinds of help. First, God is a refuge, a safe place where we can run for protection. He protects us from the storm. Second, God is a help, a source of inner strength when calamity or trouble breaks over us. He walks with us through the storm. In which way do we experience God's care most often? Share a personal example with the group.

3. The psalm is divided into three stanzas, each ending with the word Selah, which signaled a musical interlude to give the reader time to think about what had been said. As you think about it, what common crisis or situation in our lives could be described by verses 2 and 3?
4. Why are we not to fear in those desperate, uncertain times?
5. The second stanza (vs. 4-7) pictures the security and safety of dwelling in God's presence. How would you describe the place where you normally "dwell" spiritually? Is it nearing God or a distance away?
6. Where do you sense a need for God's fortress-protection in your experience right now?
7. Stanza three (vs. 8-11) looks beyond the present to the day in the future when all of God's enemies will be conquered. How does that truth help us when we feel like giving up or giving in?
8. What is involved in being still before God? Why does that help us when we feel threatened?
9. What truths about God will you claim from this psalm when your world is terrorized?
10. As you think back through the studies in this Life Guide, what questions about good and evil were answered for you? Where do you still have concerns or doubts?