



lament

DWELLING IN THE WORD

A devotional resource for committees & teams

Psalm 31:1-5 (NRSV)

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Psalm 42:1-3, 9-11 (NRSV)

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”

I say to God, my rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?”
As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”
Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

- 1. Provide pencils/pens and a copy** of this handout to each team member.
- 2. Read aloud a Scripture passage** from the suggestions to the left. Invite listeners to **circle words or phrases** that they notice as the Scripture is read.
- 3. Allow a few moments** of silence for quiet reflection. Then, **share** your observations with each other.
- 4. If time,** invite those present to **respond** to one or more of these questions:

- * What stories or memories does this passage stir in me?
- * What do I notice about the language, repetition, dialogue and descriptions?
- * Where and when was this passage written? What conclusions might I make about the author?
- * How might people from other cultures and generations hear this passage?

- 5. Pause for prayer,** giving thanks for God's word shared here today.

What other theme would you like to consider?

Which Scripture verses could you read?

What questions might you ask?

