

(1) Why do you think God has arranged matters such that his power is released on behalf of his people when they worship and praise him? What is the connection between the two?

(2) Read and reflect on Psalm 22:3. What does this mean in relation to our corporate worship services at Bridgeway? In what ways, if any, might it change your attitude toward our time of singing? In what ways, if any, might it increase your expectations of what God will do?

(3) Read and reflect on Isaiah 61:1-3. In light of this passage, what are some of the effects of worship on the discouraged and disheartened among God's people? Have you experienced this yourself? If so, share your story.

(4) Read through several of the psalms of lament, in particular Psalms 7:1-2, 17; 13:1-2, 5-6; 31:9-10, 21-24; 35:17-18; 42:5, 9-11; 43; 57:4-11; 69:29-30. What is the relationship between the suffering of the psalmist, the singing of the psalmist, and his recovery from despair and loneliness?

(5) Read back through the testimony of Gordon MacDonald. What precisely happened in his heart? Has this ever happened to you? Take a few minutes and let each person share from their own experience how times of worship have served to bring refreshment, healing, and renewed hope.