

Why do you think Christians have *trouble*, too?

CORONA CRISIS

1. WHEN IT POURS, HE REIGNS

HVC, March 15, 2020

Psalm 46 (NIV)

What's the scariest thing for you about this "Coronavirus crisis"? What's the worst thing that could go wrong?

What's the scariest situation you have ever been in? What happened? What was it like?

Think of the last time you needed to act but you did not know what to do ... what was that? What did you do/not do? What ultimately happened?

On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how familiar were you with this psalm before today?

Psalm 46:1 (NIV)

***God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.***

What part of this assurance do you appreciate most?

In what way(s) do you think God is a *refuge*? How do you "take refuge" in God?

When have you been aware of God's *strength* working on your behalf?

Psalm 46:2-3 (NIV)

***Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.***

Have you ever been in an earthquake or a really scary storm?

WHY, exactly, does the psalmist say he will *not fear*? Are you able to say that?

Why do you think the psalmist feels the need to express this confidence out loud? How does that help him deal with his fear?

Psalm 46:4 (NIV)

***There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.***

Given the raging sea in the previous verse, why is water a comfort in this picture? Why is it so important?

What is the *city of God*?

If the *city of God* is the *holy place where the Most High dwells*, what corresponds to that in the New Testament? (1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19, Eph. 2:19ff)

What does the river represent? (cf. John 4:13-14)

If the *holy place* today is the community of believers through which the *stream* flows, what does that say to the importance of being a vital part of a spiritual community of Christian believers?

Psalm 46:5 (NIV)

***God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.***

WHY won't the city (now the church) fall?

What does it tell you that God helps *her at break of day*? i.e., does this victory preclude some "dark" times? How, in your experience, is that reassuring?

Based on this, what kind of things should we tell ourselves when things seem most dark and hopeless?

Why is that not just "wishful thinking"?

Psalm 46:6 (NIV)

***Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.***

What is the point of this verse?

Where do you see nations *in uproar* today?

Where do you see *kingdoms falling* today?

What is the point of mentioning God's *voice*?

Psalm 46:7 (NIV)

***The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of **Jacob** is our fortress.***

What is the source of our security when everything else around us is crumbling?

Why is it comforting to know that God is actually *with* us?

Which impresses you more: that the Lord is *Almighty* ... or that He is the God of *Jacob*?

Why would those two descriptors support the contention that God is our fortress?

Psalm 46:8-9 (NIV)

*****Come and see** what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.***

What does the psalmist want us to *see*? WHY does he want us to see that?

Can you imagine a day like this coming?

What would it be like if all wars ceased? Short of divine intervention, do you see any prospect of that actually happening?!

Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

***He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."***

What do you think it means ...
to *be still*?
to *know that He is God*?

What will it be like for God to be *exalted* throughout the world? What would you like about that?!

Discuss this statement: *Ultimately, all stress & anxiety come from trying to be God!*

Psalm 46:11 (NIV)

***The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.***

Why do you think the psalmist repeats this?

If we were to die of a plague or by some other means, do you still think this verse would be true? Why/not?

What might be the benefit of repeating this verse to yourself throughout the day?

Perhaps your group could close out by each person sharing a "*trouble*" in their life right now, and then having the group recite the last verse together.