# HONEST TO GOD

Learning to Pray from the Psalms

## **WEEK 1: Community of the Broken**

### **APPETIZER: Wrestling with God in Prayer**

#### ISRAEL

= SARAH (to persist/contend/wrestle) + EL (God)

= to wrestle with God

Our confidence for Bold Honesty... Psalm 139:1-4

Examples of Bold Honesty...

Psalm 6:6

Psalm 22:1-2 VS Psalm 22:24

Psalm 25:11, 18 VS Psalm 26:1

Psalm 31:7 VS Psalm 31:12

Psalm 44:23-24

Psalm 55:5-8

**Psalm 69:8** 

Imprecatory Psalms (Imprecations = Curses)...

Psalm 3:7; 5:10; 10:15; 11:5; 28:4; 31:17-18; 35:4-6; 37:13; 40:14-15; 52:6; 58:6-11; 69:23-28; 79: 6; 83:16-17; 109:6-15; 137:8-9: 139:19-22: 140:9-10

VS

Romans 12:20; Matthew 5:43-44; Ezekiel 18:23; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9

Why don't we throw out the Old Testament?...

Psalm 102:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 15:3-4 (quoting Psalm 69:9)

#### **DINE IN: Honest To God About Our Failure**

Psalm 32

Words for sin in Psalm 32....

- Transgression (Wilful rebellion)
- Sin (Failure; Missing the mark)
- Iniquity (Guilt; Twisting)

Words for forgiveness in **Psalm 32**...

- Forgiven
- Covered Over
- Not Imputed (Not Counted Against)

Advanced Level Confession... James 5:16

Psalm 8:4-6

"Unfailing Love" = HESED

= God's Covenantal, Unconditional, "Stamped-It-No-Erasies" Love

An invitation to the boldly honest... Rejoice! Be Glad! Sing!

**TAKE OUT: Broken Like Me** 

Psalm 31:12; 34:18

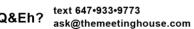
A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

~ King David (Psalm 68:5-6)

NEXT WEEK: "Honest To God" continues with Ken Shigematsu!









### **Home Church Questions**

#### **HANGOUT** [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

- 1. Have you read the Psalms before? What was/is your reaction to them?
- 2. We READ the Bible and STUDY the Bible and LEARN FROM the Bible... but we FOLLOW Jesus. Talk about why this is an important distinction for Christ-followers, in light of some of the imprecatory Psalms.
- 3. Any other thoughts about this week's teaching before moving forward? Anything that bothered or encouraged you? Any remaining questions?

#### **HEAR** [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

#### 4. Read **Psalm 32**.

- a. "Blessed is the one... in whose spirit is no deceit" (verses 1-2). What would it look like to live every day in complete honesty? What are the possible problems and potential benefits? Are you up for this?
- b. Have you ever experienced the wasting disease of dishonesty, as described in **verses 3-4**? If you are open to it, share your experience.
- c. David confessed his sin to God directly. James (James 5:16) also encourages us to confess our sins to a fellow believer so we might be healed. What do you think? What is the value of confession in prayer? What is the value of confession to a brother or sister?
- d. Wait, we should pray to God "while you may be found" (verse 6)? Is there a cut-off time for God's grace? What is David getting at?
- e. What does David believe about the dignity and freewill nature of human beings? Compare verse 9 with Psalm 8:4-6. How does this inform our theology about predestination and God's control of all things, including human decisions?
- f. Have you ever had a sense of being "surrounded" by God's "unfailing love"? If so, talk about it. Either way, take a moment (now or in your huddles) to pray to have (more of) this experience.

## **HUDDLE** [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

- 5. What has God been saying to you through this week's teaching? Talk about next steps in your life and pray for each other.
- 6. Is there anything you would like to confess and invite prayer for? This might be a good time.