

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of October 2, 2016

Psalm 71:15-16

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

- <sup>15</sup> My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,  
of your deeds of salvation all day long,  
though their number is past my knowledge.
- <sup>16</sup> I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD,  
I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.

### **New International Version (NIV)**

- <sup>15</sup> *My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds,  
of your saving acts all day long—  
though I know not how to relate them all.*
- <sup>16</sup> *I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign LORD;  
I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone.*

### **Connection Questions:**

1. The passage in our text was probably used in temple worship as a prayer while Israel was in Babylonian exile. How can prayer make a difference in the difficult times we encounter or can it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Reread Psalm 71:15-16. What do these words tell us about the writer, if anything?

3. We develop about 60% of how we view the world by the time we're six years old. What do the words we learn in those formative years tell us, if anything, about the development of a child?
  
4. A recent study reported by Scientific American revealed that, in general, we spend at least 60% of our conversational time talking about one thing, ourselves. Discuss what you think this study tells us about our human nature, if anything?
  
5. God's message to the world through the prophets, apostles, and Jesus calls us to be outward focused. How does his message challenge our human inclinations to be selfish? Is it possible, if so, how?
  
6. Can the words we use make a difference in the lives of others we encounter in life? If so, how? Give examples of situations where you think the words used made a positive difference.
  
7. In a similar light, can the words we use have a negative impact on others we encounter? If so, how? Give examples of where you think words used had a negative impact?

8. Can our faith have an impact on the words we use in communicating to others? If so, how?
  
9. Discuss how you think the writer of our text's faith possibly impacted his words.
  
10. In our world with partisan politics, can the words we use have an impact in our culture? If so, discuss how this could happen?
  
11. Read 1 Corinthians 13. What does Paul's message say about how the church should conduct itself?