

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of September 18, 2016

Psalm 27:3-4

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)

³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.

Common English Bible (CEB)

³ *If an army camps against me,
my heart won't be afraid.*

*If war comes up against me,
I will continue to trust in this:*

⁴ *I have asked one thing from the LORD—
it's all I seek:*

*to live in the LORD's house all the days of my life,
seeing the LORD's beauty
and constantly adoring his temple.*

Connection Questions:

1. Reset means to restore to its original design. If you believe God is our creator, do you believe he created us with a purpose and if so, what is it?
2. Many in today's culture compare their commitment to church to being involved in a civic organization and paying dues. Is there a difference to the commitment we make to charity organizations versus our commitment to church and our faith? If so, what is the difference?
3. In the Greek world, the mind or reason was valued over the heart or emotions. Discuss why you think reason was more important to the Greeks.
4. Discuss possible times in your life when relying on your heart led you into making a bad decision. Have the same discussion about possible times when relying primarily on your reasoning ability led you into making a bad decision.
5. Is it possible to value your head and heart in the decisions we make? If so, discuss how you would go about the decision making process?

6. The writer of Psalm 27:3-4 writes from a context of his people being in Babylon. Reread the text and discuss how his thoughts reflected the experience he was going through.

7. How can the messages our mind sends limit or even destroy the images we have of ourselves? Do we have the ability to change negative perceptions we have of ourselves? If so, how?

8. In *How to Find out Who You Are*, Nelson Price reports that 15 prominent college professors took this challenge: “If all the books on the actions of human beings were condensed into one brief statement, what would that statement be?” The results of their deliberation were:
 - 1) What the mind attends to, it considers.
 - 2) What the mind does not attend to, it dismisses.
 - 3) What the mind attends to continually, it believes.
 - 4) What the mind believes, it eventually does.Discuss what you think Price is trying to tell us in his research. Do you agree or disagree?

9. The writer of our text attempts to share how his faith in God has impacted the negative images of his experience in the world. Can our faith reset or reform the image we have of ourselves? If so, how?