



***Important Note:** For the past six weeks we have been discussing the life of King David from the Bible books of 1st and 2nd Samuel. This week we are taking a break from this series. For the past week our world has watched as war broke out in the nation of Israel following an attack by Hamas. Christianity is nothing if it is not a faith for every situation in our lives and every challenge the world faces. So, we have planned the following discussion around one of the Bible's constant topics: How is a Christian to think, feel and respond when evil invades our lives?*

***Leaders:** Please take time to consider whether in your discernment this is a discussion that would be helpful for your group. If you feel it is not, then please make a plan for the group that you feel is best. Pastor Paul would be happy to provide suggestions!*

WEEK 6: SUNDAY, October 15th

*"When the World Seems Broken"*  
Psalm 94

### **Let's Warm Up**

- 1.) Do you spend time watching or reading the news each day? Why or why not? When major events happen in the world do you tend to get pulled in for a few days or do you keep busy with life?
- 2.) When you were growing up, was discussing the events of the world a normal pastime in your family? How about in your church? Regardless of your answer, were there Pros and Cons to this approach?

### **Let's Get Into the Word!**

Read: Psalm 94 together.

- 3.) Looking only at verses 1-7. What is the big idea here? As best as you can tell what is going on?
- 4.) The first words in v. 1 are shocking. Revenge is usually considered a dangerous motivation for humans. Why should we be very hesitant to talk about wanting revenge? Is it wrong to call God a "God of vengeance?"



5.) In verse 7, the Psalmist feels like God must not see what's going on. Do you ever feel that way? How do verses 8-11 answer this challenge?

6.) Why is it important for Christians to know that God sees the evil and injustice of our world? What do you think it does to someone if they feel that "no one cares" what is happening to them?

7.) But God's Word doesn't stop there. Verses 12-15 gives a number of promises for God's people. Which one do you resonate most with?

8.) Take a look at Verse 16, here the author looks to God to "deal with" the wicked. What feelings do you have around the idea that God will be directly addressing people who are truly "wicked?" (is this a yukky idea or encouraging or something else?)

9.) Did you notice something? One of the quiet themes of this Psalm was for the righteous person's faith in God to protect them from getting pulled into wickedness. (discipline is a good thing in vv. 10,12) Why is humility so important when facing ugly things? What happens when we are prideful and arrogant in the way we approach evil or the failings of others?

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These next few questions require maturity and the ability to listen first, and then pray together for GOD to act on our world's behalf. Please consider whether you are up for this before continuing:

1.) How have the events in Israel/Gaza affected you this week? Have you found yourself emotionally and personally moved by these events?

2.) If you could ask an Israeli citizen one question, what would you ask them? What about a Palestinian in Gaza?

3.) Is it important for Christians in our prayers to make a distinction between Gaza's citizens and its leaders, Hamas?

RISE AND FALL OF KING



4.) So many conversations about this situation are about who is “right” and who is “wrong” (even the author of this guide has his own opinion on the subject). When are those conversations helpful and when are they hurtful? What does it look like to have a healthy conversation about such a tense, divisive topic?

5.) We are called to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” We are also called to care for every human. How should we pray for the people of Gaza? How for the people of Israel? How can Christians manifest the hope of the world in this dark time?

Conclude in Prayer: ask for a few volunteers to pray over the situation in Israel/Gaza