**Life Group Notes Sunday 5 March 2023**

**Encountering God in hardship / crisis**

* Read Psalm 18 : 1 – 2 In your experience of life, how authentic are the attributes of God?
* Read Psalm 27 : 1 – 14 Why is it that David who had uncontrollable lust / committed adultery / arranged a murder could write such a psalm?

**When encountering hardship / crisis – profess faith**

* *(Psalm 27 : 1)* What is the difference between David’s confession of faith and Christian confession of faith?
* Share any experience of being enriched by people under pressure professing faith
* **When encountering hardship / crisis – stand firm**
* *(Psalm 27 : 2 – 3 / Ephesians 6 : 10 – 18)*
* What challenges are there when we stand firm in faith by wearing Christian armour?
* What difference should wearing Christian armour make to public life?
* **When encountering hardship / crisis – cry out to God**
* *(Psalm 27 : 4 – 5)*
* Recall gospel accounts of Jesus crying out to the Father
* Read 1 Thessalonians 5 : 16 – 18 What are the challenges of these instructions?
* You may like to share times of crying out to God in praise and / or in pain
* **When encountering hardship / crisis – God will not forsake**
* *(Psalm 27 : 9 – 10)* If we feel forsaken by God, how should we respond?
* **When encountering hardship / crisis – remain confident**
* *(Psalm 27 : 13 – 14)* What is the difference between standing firm in our own strength and standing firm in the Lord?
* Read John 16 : 33 You may like to share an experience of God’s peace and times of taking heart / being of good cheer
* **For reflection / worth memorising**
* “When the sea is rough, **He** is with you in the boat.” *(Words of former dockyard worker – Plymouth)*

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