

*Luke 19:37-38 NKJV - 37 Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, 38 saying: "Blessed [is] the King who comes in the name of the LORD!" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

In Jerusalem they looked for a King because, from their perspective, that is what they needed. But they received a sacrifice because, from God's perspective, that is what was required. Knowing full well He would have to endure the cross, Jesus chose to show up in the manner dictated by God's perspective, not ours.

*Have you experienced a sense of desperation as you try to control what is outside of your control? Has your focus shifted to hand sanitizer, 6 foot distancing, changing investment strategies, and digital connections? Take this moment to refocus on God, His Nature and His Character. Release control to the faithful, sovereign God who show up and makes a way.*

## **WRAP-UP**

There are pivotal moments in every generation. When Jesus died on the cross it appeared to that generation of believers that all was lost. But the resurrection of Jesus on Easter day shows us that God can make a way. For many, this pandemic has created a sense of anxiety because their job, their savings or their health has been compromised. Even though we can't see the way right now, we choose to trust and believe that God is faithful, He shows up and He makes a way.

## **Memory Verse**

22 The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease.  
23 Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.  
- Lamentations 3:22-23 NLT

## **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs: \_\_\_\_\_

*Challenge- Start each morning this week with a quick prayer acknowledging God's faithfulness and your trust in Him to make a way.*

## **"God Shows Up!"** **Pastor David Hutsko**

### **INTRODUCTION**

There is no denying that we are living in difficult times. What may have looked like a short-term inconvenience has morphed into a long-term "new normal" with some life-changing consequences. No doubt our world will be different in the future as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. But how do we respond as we wait for that uncertain future to be revealed? How do we deal with the change that has been forced upon us? While we may wrestle with feelings of grief and loss, we can choose to trust God. As believers we place our hope in a faithful God who shows up for us.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)**

Have you heard of or experienced any pleasant surprises during this period of self-confinement?

### **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

#### **1. A Time of Lament**

*Psalm 22:1-2 NLT - 1 ... My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help? 2 Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night you hear my voice, but I find no relief.*

If you are wondering where God is in the midst of your crisis, you are not alone. The Psalmist wrote a lament in Psalm 22 that asks- "Why have you abandoned me?" Unfortunately, much of our lives are lived in the valley between trouble and deliverance, fear and safety, sickness and healing. And in those times, it may be hard to see God. That might be where you find yourself right now.

*What is the greatest grief or loss that you are currently experiencing? Have you been able to express that feeling to God? The psalms give us permission to lament, in fact they are a model of*

*lamenting. Prayer is more than just a list of requests for God, it is communication and communion with Him. Take a moment in prayer right now and express to God what you are feeling and wait patiently for His response to you.*

As he concludes Psalm 22 the psalmist makes a choice to have hope.

*Psalm 22:25-26, 30-31 NLT - 25 I will praise you in the great assembly. I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you. 26 The poor will eat and be satisfied. All who seek the LORD will praise him. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy. ... 30 Our children will also serve him. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord. 31 His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born. They will hear about everything he has done.*

This passage demonstrates a choice to trust God. Why? Because God has shown himself faithful in the past.

*When has God shown up for you in your past? Was it when you were lost, hurting, or sick? Even if His response was not what you were expecting, how did you experience God with you. Who would you say God is to you; your strength, refuge, provider...?*

*Lamentations 3:22-23 NLT - 22 The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. 23 Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.*

*The bible tells us God's faithfulness is never-ending. What we need to do is wait, trust and believe in His faithfulness.*

## **2. When and How – that's God's Decision not Ours**

Throughout history God has shown up for His people.

*How did He show up for these people in the Old Testament? Which do you think expected God sooner or differently than He showed up?*

- *Moses and the Israelites in Egypt,*
- *Joshua at Jericho,*

- *Elijah and prophets of Baal,*
- *David and Goliath,*
- *Daniel in lion's den,*
- *Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego in the fire.*

We are in the week leading up to Easter. At this time in Jesus' life, He made a choice to respond to God calling Him to be a sacrifice. Jesus had opportunities to turn away from that painful calling. But He chose to "show up" for us instead.

*Luke 9:33-35 NLT - 33 As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, "Master, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials--one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 34 But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them. 35 Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him."*

*What do you think Peter's version of Jesus' future would be if Peter could control the outcome?*

Luckily, we don't choose when and how God shows up. What looked like a good idea to Peter, was not a good idea for the salvation of the world which required Jesus to be a sacrifice, not to retreat to the safety of a shelter.

## **3. God Shows Up**

*Luke 9:51 NLT - 51 As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.*

There was a time set for Jesus to complete His work on earth. And at that time, He resolutely set out to endure a painful death on our behalf. God showed up for us.

*What were the people expecting as Jesus made this entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19:38)? How are you expecting that God will show up in our current crisis?*