



EFC Sermon-Based Growth Group

Week: November 8, 2020

Title: Turning to God in the Battle with Despair

Text: Psalm 88 ~ Pastor Jesse Smith

### **Kick Starters...**

1. In your Christian life, have you ever felt stuck and without hope?
2. Have you ever had a chance to encourage someone who felt without hope? What did you do and how did it go?

### ***Entertain the text***

3. Read the text out loud and discuss/list/highlight any significant words or observations. Make notes in your Bible to help you recall anything important to revisit or pray over. Use cross-Scripture texts as is helpful.

### ***Engage the text***

4. Reading Psalm 88 may leave us wondering why God would include such a dark text in His Holy Word. As dark as this text is, how might a Christian find comfort in it?

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14. Why is it important to understand that we minister to the fainthearted or the weak Christian differently than say, one who is foolishly pursuing sinful pleasures?

6. Have you ever considered that you could go through something so hard that it would challenge your ability to see hope in God for a time? How might God use such a trial to know him on a deeper level? See Job 42:5-6.

7. In their relationship with God, how can Christians be honest about their struggles and even doubts in their battle with despair while showing a proper fear of God and concern for sin?

8. Like a thick fog, our suffering can sometimes blind us from seeing the hope that is always there in God. How does the Psalmist demonstrate fighting to believe the truth? See verses 1,2,9, and 13.

### ***Execute the text***

9. Take some time to pray that we would be strengthened to walk with hope in Christ no matter what this fallen life brings. Pray for those in the church who are suffering and battling despair, that they would see Christ clearly and stand firmly in the hope of Christ.