



## Leaders

### OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...  
Tell about a time that you experienced homesickness.  
What did you learn about yourself in that experience?

### DIG

*The Old Testament Psalms are divided into five books or sections. Psalm number 42 opens the second book with a song written by people who had been taken away from their homes as captives. Listen as they write about their own homesickness in verses 1-4...*

**Read PSALM 42:1-4** *"1 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you my God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?' These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng." [NIV]*

What do animals do when they are panting from thirst?

People were asking, "Where is your God?"

Do your best to describe the circumstances and feelings that you imagine caused them to ask this question.

What causes God to seem far away for people in our culture?

What things does the writer remember fondly from the past?

**Read PSALM 42:5-8** *"5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. 6 My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar. 7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. 8 By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life." [NIV]*

What are the suggestions given in verses 5 and 6 to counter discouragement?

Verse 8 gives an example of being thankful even in hard circumstances. As a result of this thanksgiving during the day, what results came at night?

This passage focuses on past memories. Which one seems most helpful to you: spiritual memories of the past or spiritual hope for the future?

### APPLY

What are some of your favorite spiritual memories of the past?

What are some spiritual blessings you have received in the middle of your current challenges?

-GLR

### Series

This discussion guide is based on a sermon in a series called "The Church from House to House." Topics specifically address concerns during impact of the worldwide pandemic.

### Big Idea

This lesson focuses on the need for hope in God when normal life rhythms are disrupted.

### Prayer

Pray for God to give your group a vision of restored worship in every person's heart.

### Group Reminders

Keep the rhythm of your group meetings, even when there are challenges to meet. Connect with the members who are not able to gather to find how to pray for each one.

Encourage all group members to sign up to "GIVE HELP" so they will be on call to help others in our community. Go to the COVID-19 RESPONSE section of the church website:

<https://northboulevard.com/events/responding-with-love-covid-19-response/>