

## Taking It Home:

- Twice in Psalm 42 the psalmist chooses to “remember” (cp. Psalm 42:4, 6) things that lift his spirits and remind him that he is not alone. What are the things that you can “remember” about the Lord and your experience with him that can lift your spirits?
- Presuming you have a “face of shame” because of some circumstance in your life, what might keep you right now from calling out to the Lord and allowing his “face” to shine upon you with grace and mercy? See the phrase in verse 2, “When shall I come and see the face of God?” Now, consider the words “the salvation of my face” (Psalm 42:6, 11, and Psalm 43:5). Take time and prayerfully picture the merciful face of the Lord shining upon your face of shame, bringing directly to you “salvation” (the word here in the Hebrew is the word from which comes “Jesus,” and implies salvation and victory and help.
- Psalm 42:8 declares that the Lord “commands his steadfast love” over us. You might memorize that whole verse. By “steadfast love” (Hebrew, *hesed*) we are to think of loyal, unending love and tender mercy. The Lord commands this over your life. Recount ways in which you may be aware of this.
- As you recount ways the Lord “commands his steadfast love” over you, then take time to thank him and praise him. Notice Psalm 43:4’s statement that the psalmist “will praise” God. In what ways do you worship God each day, expressing your praise to him? How might you do that right now as you reflect on his ability to match your shame with his tender love and grace?

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## Book 2: Psalms of the Face

### Notes:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of June 2, 2013

Psalm 42

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**Quick Review:** For generations the “Sons of Korah” considered the striking contrast between their ancestor Korah, the one who rebelled against God, and Moses, God’s prophet and the one against whom Korah raged. In God’s design, Moses was vindicated and Korah and many of his immediate family were destroyed. The moving example of Moses’ dependence upon God, contrasting Korah’s rebellious spirit, transformed the descendants of Korah, and their reflections upon this have led to some of the Bible’s most moving prayers and songs.

## My Story:

Do you recall what it is like to “lose face”? Perhaps you made a poor decision that has ultimately left you humiliated and ashamed. Maybe some sin in your life has caused you to feel overwhelmed with embarrassment and regret. Perhaps your shame is not because of a choice of your own, but you are the victim of some circumstance that has robbed you of self-worth, dignity or value. Regardless of how it has come about, you are weary and “tears have been [your] food day and night” (Psalm 42:3).

Would you be willing to share about this with someone close to you, or even with your Growth Group?

## Growing Deeper:

- Numbers 16 tells the riveting story of a priest named Korah who rebelled against Moses and the Lord. Take a few moments and carefully read the story, paying careful attention to Moses’ response to the dilemma caused by Korah, as well as to Korah’s attitude. What were some of the differences you observed between the two men?
- Give special notice to the times in which Moses falls on his face before God (see Numbers 16:5, 22, and 45). What does this say about Moses? In what ways might you emulate this attitude in your own life? What keeps you from that?
- Numbers 16:31-35 give a glimpse at the punishment God inflicted upon Korah for his rebellion. It appears that his whole household died. However, at least one lived. Read Numbers 26:11 and 1 Chronicles 6:37. Share what you think Korah’s sons might have felt watching their father die because of his wickedness. Consider some of these words as you think about this: shame, fear, disgrace, regret, embarrassment, humiliation, loss of face, etc.
- With Numbers 16 as a backdrop, read Psalms 42-43. What did Pastor Matthew say about the phrases “see the face of God” (cp. Psalm 42:2) and “the salvation of my face” (cp. Psalm 42:5, 11 and Psalm 43:5)?