



# **Sermon Discussion Guide**

December 29, 2024 | Psalm 88 | Jim Kramer

## **SUMMARY**

Following our Advent series on “The Light,” from Psalm 88, Jim Kramer led us consider and wrestle with the realities of the darkness of this life and world. In other words, we know that Jesus is the Light, he has come, he’s made us light and given us the ministry of light, and we eagerly await his eternal light; However, what about those days and seasons where we feel and wrestle with the darkness of despair, suffering, trials and hardships? What happens when our experience and feelings are flavored by deep sadness and grief? The author of Psalm 88 leads us to lament and prayerfully grapple not aimlessly, but to the Lord who reigns sovereign over our troubles, who entered into our grief, suffering in every way we do and more, so that he can be a faithful high priest - able to intercede and to come alongside in help for those who trust in Him.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Intro Questions:

Should Christians always be happy and gleeful? Would it be wrong or sinful if a Christian was only and always sad (never joyful)?

Why do you think (in general) there is so little preaching on the subject of suffering, trials, and dark times in the contemporary church?

## **READ Psalm 88**

1. What is the overall, big picture feel of this psalm?
  - o How do you know? (Look for repeated words/ideas, how it begins/ends)
2. From Psalm 88, what guidance, what truths, what instruction is given by way of modeling, that is helpful for us to think about, remember, and apply when responding to “dark” times?
3. What role does the church play in our suffering? (What role do you play in the life of others when suffering?)
4. Does reading this Psalm on the “other side” of the cross of Christ from Heman, change or influence our understanding and perspective on suffering? How?
5. How is the Gospel and how is Christ revealed and taught through this psalm?
  - o What comfort, help, and hope-filled assurance does this bring to you?