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Valley Church

June 24 & 25, 2017
Week 3 – God our Protector (Psalm 142)

Message Notes:

1 Samuel 24:3

Psalm 142:1-7

- ¹ I cry aloud to the Lord;
I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.
- ² I pour out before him my complaint;
before him I tell my trouble.
- ³ When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who watch over my way.
In the path where I walk
people have hidden a snare for me.
- ⁴ Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;
no one is concerned for me.
I have no refuge;
no one cares for my life.
- ⁵ I cry to you, Lord;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."
- ⁶ Listen to my cry,
for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.
- ⁷ Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

SMALL GROUP Q'S:

Personal Life:

1. God is described as the Protector of His people throughout the Old and New Testaments. Share about or describe a time when you were keenly aware that God had protected you in a situation...
2. In the message, it was said that sometimes God protects us from hard times and other times God protects us through them. What are your thoughts about that? Have you found this to be true in your life? Explain...

Ponderings:

3. For the person who is in the midst of great loss or other forms of suffering, how is it possible to trust God as "Protector" when life seems to leave that person feeling abandoned and vulnerable?
4. What do you do personally when life feels as though God is not protecting you in the way you believe He could or should?
5. Read Psalm 142:1-7 as a group. Based on the evidence of David's words, what can we perceive that David knows or believes about God's character? Try to find something specific in each of the seven verses...
6. Consider again the words of Horatio Spafford's hymn, "It is Well With My Soul." Does it seem almost unbelievable to you that he could write such faith-filled words at the moment of His deepest sorrow? How do we explain this?

Promptings:

7. Often the way God protects us is through the intervention and love of other humans. Is there someone in your life right now who is especially vulnerable, who God might want to protect through you and your actions?
8. Is there a human being in your life who loves you – who is offering protection of some kind that you've been disregarding? Are you willing to humble yourself and receive God's protection through them?