

Q. What can we learn about the character of God from Psalm 30 and 40?

Q. Share about a time you have experienced God showing up during your time of disorientation. What did you do to manifest that?

Q. What are some ways you can help someone get from disorientation to new orientation?

Q. What else about the sermon or this passage? Share any questions you have. What are your “take-aways” as you think about Brueggemann’s categorization of the Psalms?

Harvest Reaching Beyond

Evangelical Free Church

*A Disciple-making Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal study and/or groups)*

Week of March 26, 2017

Walter Brueggemann in his book, [Spirituality of the Psalms](#), gives us a helpful framework in categorizing the Psalms. He says there are Psalms of orientation, disorientation and new orientation.

Orientation

Psalms of orientation describe a happy, blessed state, where God is known to be reliable and trustworthy. They express a confident, serene view. God is good, his creation is perfect, Torah is complete and ordered - everything is good. These Psalms speak of a healthy, oriented life that is anticipated even if it is not yet experienced.

Disorientation

Psalms of disorientation acknowledge that life is not always that of coherence and symmetry. In fact, sometimes life is very difficult and it does not make sense. These Psalms address brokenness, suffering, disarray, and evoke rage and pity. They express a dissatisfaction with God and question when God will act. These are also called Psalms of Lament and it is estimated roughly half the Psalms fall into this category

New or Reorientation

These Psalms express a return to orientation - although there is no going back. In these Psalms, the Psalmist recognizes that God has met them in the place of orientation. God has shown up. Things have changed. Hope has been found in the darkness. God has rescued the people. Grace has been exhibited. Even in the darkest hour, God is still God and God is good.

Life is lived in the movement between these areas - mainly between disorientation and new orientation. It is our reality. The Church does a poor job with those in disorientation. It is not a comfortable place for any involved. We want to move people to new orientation as quickly as possible. Sometimes it is necessary for people to hang out in disorientation for a while. Sometimes it takes time.

Orientation Psalms - read Psalm 1 and Psalm 145

Q. What Psalm 1 say about people who choose to follow God? How are people of faith compared against those who are wicked?

Q. What are some of the characteristics of God you see in Psalm 145? What are we called to do?

Q. What has helped you get a bigger view of God's goodness? What has hindered you?

Q. Ephesians 5:20 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 talk about giving thanks in all circumstances. What is a situation right now in which you find it difficult to give thanks or see God at work?

Disorientation Psalms - read Psalm 44 & 51

Q. Summarize Psalm 44. What is going on here?

Q. Summarize Psalm 51. What is going on here? What is David wanting?

Q. Share about a time you have experienced disorientation? What caused it? How did you feel?

New Orientation Psalms - read Psalm 30 & 40

Q. What is the Psalmist trying to convey in these Psalms? What is the overall point?
