

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Read Psalm 46 - Try reading the psalm several times (you can even use different translations each time to bring out more nuances from the psalm).

Begin by making 2-3 observations about the psalm and note any questions that come up for you. Then answer some or all of the following:

This Psalm is divided into three sections with the word “selah” indicating a pause. How does pausing and meditating deepen our encounter with the psalm?

The first section (vs 1-3) begins with a description of a world that is falling apart.

Take time to name the ways it feels like our world is falling apart.

Where do you see chaos? (Globally, Nationally, Locally)

Where does the ground seem to be shifting under your feet?

What is causing turmoil in your life?

How does verse 1 describe God? What comfort do you find in this?

In the second section (vs 4-7) four distinct names for God are used (elohim/God; Elyon/Most High; YHWH Sabaoth/LORD of Hosts; elohe-jacob/ God of Jacob).

What is significant about this?

Do you use various names for God in your prayers and speech? Why?

How might expanding your “vocabulary of God” deepen your faith and your relationship with YHWH-God?

The kingdoms totter and rage (vs6). What is the difference between the nations of earth and the Kingdom of God? Why is it important to distinguish the two?

What are the “works of the LORD” in the final section (vs 8-11)?

What does this reveal about God and God’s character?

How have you heard the verse “Be still and know I am God” used before?

How does the knowledge that it is a plural command change things?

How does the context (God ending wars) change your reading?

How do we apply this verse and obey these commands?

When life feels out of control how do you tend to respond?

Why is it a mistake for us to try to take control or assert our control?

Why is it a mistake for us to seek safety in alliances with the world?

Why is it a mistake for us to “go to war” in various ways?

How do we learn to find shelter in YHWH and live into the reality that Jesus has already defeated our enemies and has given us life? What specific step of trust might the Spirit be inviting you into?

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