



DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING

finding clarity in the chaos

STUDY GUIDE

THE POINT: When I am afraid God is FOR me!

This week we begin a new series where we explore the opportunities of COVID-19. Yes, you heard right, the opportunities. COVID-19 came and changed our lives, but it has also pushed us to ask a particular question—what really matters to us? Before the pandemic, we were busy doing those things that were seemingly important to us, but are not nearly as important any longer.

We only have to look at events like the pandemic and the deaths of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery to acknowledge that we don't have control of our lives. Before he became King, David understood faith in the middle of chaos. David shared his feelings of being overwhelmed, opposed, lonely, and afraid. But in the midst of his situation, David saw his circumstances in light of the character of God. He knew God was sovereign and merciful; that He judges sin, knows our suffering, and delivers us from darkness. He trusted God. He had faith that God was FOR him. So, in the middle of this fearful, out of control world, remind yourself, "God is FOR me!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and discuss **Psalm 56**. David describes the chaos of his life, but also where he places his trust and his faith. Can you, like David, say, "when I am afraid...I am not afraid"? Why or why not?
2. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?
3. Reality check: it's likely that before the pandemic and recent events you didn't focus on death like you do now. Death is the reality of the pandemic and racial strife. Therefore, we should be able to identify with David's feelings. What feelings are you experiencing? How have you seen your circumstances in light of the character of God?
4. What characteristic(s) of God has helped you face your circumstances during this time?
5. We use the phrase "trust in God," but that means we have to focus our thoughts on God. Instead, we tend to focus on the issue, the problem. What things should we be doing to put our focus on, our trust in God?

ACTION STEPS

- God did not expect you to experience life, or a pandemic, alone. Since we are not yet ready to meet in large gatherings, we encourage you to gather in two ways:
 - **HOUSE CHURCH**- approximately ten people who gather in a home to watch and discuss the worship service, socialize, invite new people, and make plans to serve in our community.
 - **HUDDLE**- four people of the same gender who commit to meeting together weekly for a year to discover and deepen their relationship with Jesus and each other.
- What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?
- Read the **Didn't See That Coming Daily Devotional** on our website.