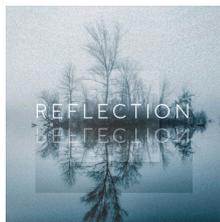


REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

Here is some material, related to the theme of Sunday's on-line worship gathering, that can be used for **personal reflection** ... and/or **discussion** – with your spouse or your family or a friend (on the phone), or a group (on Zoom or similar) ...

REFLECTION



Psalm 18 verse 2 says:

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.”

Can you identify with that statement? Have there been times in your life when you have felt in danger in some way ... but have been able to depend on and trust that God is your rock, your fortress, your place of safety?

These words were written by David, before he became king of Israel. The Bible says he sang these words to the LORD when He rescued him from all his enemies ... How about writing your own psalm or prayer to God – praising Him and giving thanks to Him for a time or times when He has rescued you ...?

DISCUSSION



Trust ...

Why do you trust God? What is the basis of your faith that He is trustworthy, and will be your rock, your fortress, your shield ... ?

You could talk about personal experiences, testimonies of others, Scripture's promises ...

(For example, see ...

Deuteronomy 32:4; Joshua 1:19; 1 Samuel 2:2; 2 Samuel 22:2-3, & 47; Psalm 94:22; Isaiah 41:10; John 10:28-29; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 3:3.)

Think and talk about the resurrection of Jesus. What confidence does this give you that God is a trustworthy Saviour? On what basis do you believe in Jesus' resurrection?

PRAYER

Here's a prayer from Charles Hewlett, the Leader of our Baptist family of churches ... You may like to use it as a basis for your own praying this week ...

Lord, thank you for your deep love for us. In humility we come before you as a union of churches and acknowledge our dependence upon you. We cry out to you for so many things. Bring healing to our world – destroy this virus. Watch over the poorest nations – raise up selfless international leaders who know how to act justly. Continue to give wisdom to our own leaders – be with Jacinda Ardern and Ashley Bloomfield. Please renew the strength of Baptist pastors and chaplains. Protect our overseas workers. Pour out your blessing on the church. Ensure that mission remains the DNA of our movement – may people come to Jesus through our specific actions in this season. And Lord, help us to grow in our trust in you through our prayer and fasting.

Amen.
