

MAIN POINT

Because of who God is, we can live expectantly no matter what—even in the midst of a global pandemic.

INTRODUCTION

What are the prevailing anxious thoughts you're dealing with in the circumstances of today?

What are some things people are turning to for hope and comfort in these difficult days? What are some things apart from God you are tempted to turn towards?

We are currently in a time of great anxiety as the world is searching for answers during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, most of us have turned our attention to the advice of medical and governmental officials regarding how to respond to this crisis. It is certainly wise to listen to those who have been given wisdom and authority in these areas. Yet, we must remember that our hope is not found in any one person's ability to provide the answers we need. We can live expectantly during these difficult days, not because we or any other person has all of the answers, but because of who God is and has promised to be for us.

DISCUSSION

> READ PSALM 20:1-9.

This psalm begins with a prayer for God's help. How have you seen a renewed need for God's help both in the world and in your life during recent days?

How might the difficulty of our current time give the church opportunity to share hope with others in a way that may have seemed impossible even a few weeks ago?

Why is worship of God important in the face of crisis? How does worship of God give us right perspective?

How did the specific prayers of the people in this Psalm reveal what they believed to be true about God? As we pray, how might we utilize the truth stated in these prayers for our current circumstances?

Thinking back on the last week or so, where have you most often placed your hope? Why is it crucial that we keep our focus on God, even in a time of great fear and uncertainty?

Psalm 20:7 is a well known verse for many people. How might we rephrase this verse to apply to our current circumstances?

How is the truth about what we trust in revealed in difficult days? What have you learned about yourself in this regard in recent days?

This psalm ends with the expectation of victory. If we are found in Christ, why can we be sure of victory no matter what we face? Does this mean that we will be untouched by difficult and tragedy? What does it mean?

Why is it so important to remember this distinction in a time when everyone is facing difficulty?

APPLICATION

How might we seek to remind one another of these truths in a season where we may not have opportunity to be together in person? What might it look like to shine the light of the good news of Jesus in quarantined world?