

Session 2 Knowing and treasuring the God of the gospel and his ways

Why is it that as Christians, we read the Bible?

A First verse: Psalm 119:140

Your promises have been thoroughly tested; that is why I love them so much. NLT

*"Your promise is deeply well tried and your servant loves it"
(Christopher Ash in Bible Delight)*

God's promise is deeply well tried...

...So I can trust it absolutely

- in my own life
- and society/in the world out there
- as I look ahead

Time for questions and buzzing in groups:

- 1 What do we think makes us reluctant to trust God's promise/word absolutely?
- 2 What specific ways have we been tempted not to trust God's word this past week?
How can we help one another to trust God's word better?
- 3 Can you think of an example of someone from the Bible or in a Christian book you have read or someone you know, whose example of trusting in God's word has particularly inspired you? Why?
- 4 Pray for one another to learn to trust God's word in this way.

B Second Verse: Psalm 119:71

My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees. NLT

"It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes"

Why troubles are good according to this psalmist

- Affliction is God's good school for his people
- Affliction throws us back on reading God's word
- Affliction is how God deepens our love for Him
- Affliction from living in a world where God is not honoured, drives us closer to Him

So if God does not afflict us, we will not learn.

Time for questions and buzzing in groups:

- 1 Why is Psalm 119:71 such a surprising verse to us?
- 2 How has looking at this verse begun to change our view of God and his ways?
- 3 In what ways does this verse help to shape our prayer lives?
- 4 Since you became a Christian, is there an experience of affliction that you can now see was God's goodness to you?