


Week of May 15 "Pits of Satan" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 6

## Connect Together

Have you ever watched something in the news or heard a report that made you think, "That's not right! Someone should do something about it!" Share what made you feel that way, and what your expectations were about resolving the situation.

## Lesson Verses - Psalm 10 (NKJV)

1 Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble? 2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised. 3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord. 4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts. 5 His ways are always prospering; Your judgments are far above, out of his sight; As for all his enemies, he sneers at them. 6 He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity." 7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity. 8 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the secret places he murders the innocent; His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless. 9 He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den; He lies in wait to catch the poor; He catches the poor when he draws him into his net. 10 So he crouches, he lies low, That the helpless may fall by his strength. 11 He has said in his heart, "God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see." 12 Arise, O Lord! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble. 13 Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, "You will not require an account." 14 But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless. 15 Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; Seek out his wickedness until You find none. 16 The Lord is King forever and ever; The nations have perished out of His land. 17 Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, 18 To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

# Study & Apply

1. The psalmist witnesses the wicked oppressing the poor and helpless.

a. Which activities of the wicked are highlighted in this psalm? (v2,3,7-10)

b. Why do the wicked sin so evilly and with such confidence? (v2-6,11,13)

c. What is the psalmist's strategy for bringing the wicked to justice? (v12,18)
How does this align with New Testament teaching? (Rom ans 12:19-20, 13:3-4)

**APPLY:** What do we need to keep in mind when we see injustice in the world? What actions follow from reminding ourselves of these truths?

2. The wicked are bold in sinning because they think God won't hold them accountable (v13). But they are mistaken (v14). Furthermore, God cares what happens to the poor and helpless.

a. What is God expected to do because of this? (v14-15)

b. Based on the fact that God demonstrated His justice in driving Israel's enemies out of the promised land (v16), how is God expected to exercise His power and authority in this situation? (v17-18)

**APPLY:** How can we help those who are being treated unfairly? How would you help them to see that God is not neglecting them?

# Discuss & Share

Jesus did not come the first time to bring justice and judgment upon the earth (John 3:17), but rather to save the unjust by being justly condemned in their place (1 Peter 3:18). In this way, God's justice is satisfied, for those who believe. Yet we as God's children yearn for God's justice to be served on earth. How do these yearnings express themselves in your life?

# Grow & Minister

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.