

Weekly Bible Study group – September 30, 2009

This week's reading assignment: Psalm 27:13-14

Reflection by Bob Zurinsky (bob@spu.edu)

Welcome back to *group*! Or for those of you who are here with us for the first time, just plain old “welcome.”

group is a very unique kind of worship service – it's probably not quite like any church or youth group you've attended before. Here's what we're all about: We believe that God's people absolutely **MUST** know the big story that they are a part of. We need to know our history, and especially our future. Basically, we need to know this: God created this world. But the world is broken. And God loved the world so much that he entered into it and became part of it, and even died with it (that's the story of Jesus). And when Jesus was raised to life again, that was the beginning of new hope for our world – because we believe God's promise that **WE** will also be raised up like Jesus, even though we're still broken. We are headed toward a future of healing and wholeness and love, and we have the incredible privilege of inviting the whole world to live this story too!

So what makes *group* unique? Instead of preaching the story through long sermons, we believe that every single part of the service teaches us something about ourselves and God and the mission that God has given us. By singing these carefully-chosen songs, by praying together, by hearing the words of scripture and responding through art and journaling and many of things – in all of this, we're slowly being transformed into people who know our story, who know our God, and who know how to go out and bring hope to the world. This is what we're doing together each week when we gather for worship! It's kind of epic. Thank you for being a part of it.

This year we're going to be studying three books of the Bible together: John, Revelation, and Psalms. Our study of John will begin next Wednesday, so you may want to get a head-start by reading the first chapter this week. As we kick-off our year together tonight, we're focusing on just two short verses from Psalm 27:13-14 – powerful words that pretty much sum-up our vision for this year:

**I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.**

We have confidence that God is working in this world, and we'll one day see his power and love invade this whole creation. And we *know* this is true because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead!

So be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD!

www.spu.edu/group