**COVID CONVERSATIONS STUDY GUIDE**

It was suggested that this global pandemic, with all its restrictions and opportunities, could also be an invitation for you. Have you considered this? What invitation could there be for you?

By taking our cues from King David, if you were brutally honest with God, what feelings or adjectives would you share with Him? What does our honesty reveal about ourselves? About our relationship with God? What response(s) will you have to these revelations?

We will discuss the spiritual resources available to us in a future COVID Conversation session, but what would you most want from God right now? Examples = peace, comfort, protection, guidance, wisdom, truth, salvation, confidence

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

**SESSION ONE**

The acrostic that COVID Conversations will be using as a guide for their five-week session stands for:

**C**

**O**

**V**

**I**

**D**

There are four main points of encouragement in the COME TO GOD session. They are:

1. Receive the i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
Do you sense any invitations that God might be giving to you during this time? If so, how do you feel about that?

1. Be h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God.
What honest feelings or adjectives would you share with God?
[For later] Read these scripture passages and write what emotion is being expressed in each: Psalm 42:9; Psalm 58:6-9; Psalm 55:4-5; Psalm 44:24-25; Psalm 13:1-2; Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 27:1-3; Psalm 145:1-3; Psalm 23.
2. Recognize what’s being r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in you.
Questions to ponder: *What do I really believe about God?* *What do my emotions and feelings reveal about me?
 What will I do in response to these revelations?*
3. God’s r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are available to me!
What resources would you most want from God right now? Why?
Some examples include peace, comfort, protection, guidance, wisdom, truth, salvation, confidence

**For Further Study…**

Read one man’s story in Acts 22:3-15 to see what can happen in the midst of struggle and suffering.

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God, just as all of you are today. 4I persecuted this Way up to the point of death by binding both men and women and putting them in prison, 5as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. From them I also received letters to the brothers in Damascus, and I went there in order to bind those who were there and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment. 6“While I was on my way and approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. 7I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ 8I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ Then he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazarethwhom you are persecuting.’ 9Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. 10I asked, ‘What am I to do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do.’ 11Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus. 12“A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there, 13came to me; and standing beside me, he said, ‘Brother Saul, regain your sight!’ In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him. 14Then he said, ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; 15for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard.

**REFLECTIONS:**

1. What did Paul’s invitation to connect with God look like for him? How did Paul suffer in this encounter?
2. What did Paul need to do in order to connect with God/Jesus?
3. What purpose did Paul discover in his season of suffering?
4. Do you sense any invitations that God might be giving to you during this time? If so, how do you feel about that?
5. Is there anything you sense you need to do to connect with God/Jesus?
6. Pray right now and talk to God about any invitations you feel you’re being given and/or talk with Him honestly and freely about your feelings, naming anything that may be preventing you from feeling fully connected to Him right now.