

**SOAP** (*Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer*) is a structured method of helping individuals and groups to process, journal, reflect on, and apply God's Word to their personal lives.

## SONGS OF SUMMER #12 | AUGUST 25, 2019

### THE THEOLOGY OF DIFFICULTY

**SCRIPTURE:** Read out loud the assigned passage(s) of Scripture two times. Allow God's Words to settle deeply into your heart and mind.

**Psalms 122:** <sup>1</sup>You have searched me, Lord, and You know me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup>You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue You, Lord, know it completely. <sup>5</sup>You hem me in behind and before, and You lay Your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. <sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. <sup>9</sup>If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, <sup>10</sup>even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast. <sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," <sup>12</sup>even the darkness will not be dark to You; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to You. <sup>13</sup>For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be. <sup>17</sup>How precious to me are Your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup>Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with You. <sup>19</sup>If only You, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! <sup>20</sup>They speak of You with evil intent; Your adversaries misuse Your name. <sup>21</sup>Do I not hate those who hate You, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against You? <sup>22</sup>I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. <sup>23</sup>Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup>See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

**OBSERVATION:** Observe the text individually in silence. Write down your insights. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal truth to you.

Write down as many observations as you can about the passage(s).

- What jumps out to you in the passage?
- Who is it written by? Who is it written to?
- What's one thing you didn't notice before?
- What seems interesting or unusual?
- What comes before and after the text?
- Is there repetition, comparison, or contrast?

**APPLICATION |** Discuss the observations that each of you made and talk about how to apply the teaching to your everyday lives.

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**PRAYER |** Close with prayer.