

Bible Text New International Version	What does the psalm reveal about God and how we are to approach, address, and respond to God?
<p>Psalm 74 <i>A maskil^[a] of Asaph.</i></p> <p>¹ O God, why have you rejected us forever? Why does your anger smolder against the sheep of your pasture?</p> <p>² Remember the nation you purchased long ago, the people of your inheritance, whom you redeemed— Mount Zion, where you dwelt.</p> <p>³ Turn your steps toward these everlasting ruins, all this destruction the enemy has brought on the sanctuary.</p> <p>⁴ Your foes roared in the place where you met with us; they set up their standards as signs.</p> <p>⁵ They behaved like men wielding axes to cut through a thicket of trees.</p> <p>⁶ They smashed all the carved paneling with their axes and hatchets.</p> <p>⁷ They burned your sanctuary to the ground; they defiled the dwelling place of your Name.</p> <p>⁸ They said in their hearts, “We will crush them completely!” They burned every place where God was worshiped in the land.</p> <p>⁹ We are given no signs from God; no prophets are left, and none of us knows how long this will be.</p> <p>¹⁰ How long will the enemy mock you, God? Will the foe revile your name forever?</p> <p>¹¹ Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them!</p> <p>¹² But God is my King from long ago; he brings salvation on the earth.</p> <p>¹³ It was you who split open the sea by your power; you broke the heads of the monster in the waters. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>a. Title: Probably a literary or musical term.</p>	

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<p>Psalm 74 (continued)</p> <p>¹⁴ It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave it as food to the creatures of the desert.</p> <p>¹⁵ It was you who opened up springs and streams; you dried up the ever-flowing rivers.</p> <p>¹⁶ The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and moon.</p> <p>¹⁷ It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.</p> <p>¹⁸ Remember how the enemy has mocked you, LORD, how foolish people have reviled your name.</p> <p>¹⁹ Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild beasts; do not forget the lives of your afflicted people forever.</p> <p>²⁰ Have regard for your covenant, because haunts of violence fill the dark places of the land.</p> <p>²¹ Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace; may the poor and needy praise your name.</p> <p>²² Rise up, O God, and defend your cause; remember how fools mock you all day long.</p> <p>²³ Do not ignore the clamor of your adversaries, the uproar of your enemies, which rises continually.</p>	

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<p>Psalm 85^[b] <i>For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.</i></p> <p>¹ You, LORD, showed favor to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.</p> <p>² You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.^[c]</p> <p>³ You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.</p> <p>⁴ Restore us again, God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.</p> <p>⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?</p> <p>⁶ Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?</p> <p>⁷ Show us your unfailing love, LORD, and grant us your salvation.</p> <p>⁸ I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants— but let them not turn to folly.</p> <p>⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.</p> <p>¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.</p> <p>¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.</p> <p>¹² The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.</p> <p>¹³ Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.</p> <p>b. In Hebrew texts 85:1-13 is numbered 85:2-14. c. The Hebrew has <i>Selah</i> (a word of uncertain meaning) here.</p>	

Reflections

Remembering who God is for His people, describe a time when God used suffering within your church body or small group and recount the ultimate outcome of His sovereignty and purpose.

Write a communal prayer of lament for your church, the church universal or for our country using the following format:

- 1) Address God—cry out.
- 2) Make your complaint.
- 3) Ask for help.
- 4) Declare your trust in God even when you don't understand.

