

LIFE Group Guide

How to Pray when God Hides His Face

Pastor Colin Smith

Psalm 30

July 27, 2025



THE ORCHARD

Sermon Outline

1. The Census (2 Samuel 24:1-9; 1 Chron 21:1-6)
2. The Plague (2 Sam 24:10-17; 1 Chron 21:7-17)
 - a. a. David took ownership of his sin
 - b. b. He was more concerned about the effects of his sin on others than the effects on himself
 - c. c. He finds hope in the mercy of God.
3. The Threshing Floor (2 Sam 24:18-25; 1 Chron 21:18-22:1)

Memory Verse:

“Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.” (Psalm 30:4-5)

1. REVIEW

Have the group share about how they applied last week’s sermon.

- o “You said you would _____. How did that go?”
- o “What did God do in your life this week through your obedience?”

2. R.E.C.A.P. – Read, Engage, Connect, Apply, Pray

Read the Word

- **Main Question:** What is the passage from this week’s sermon?

Engage the Word

- **Main Question:** What was something in this passage that stood out to you?
 - Optional Follow-up Questions:
 - How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the passage?
 - What other Bible verses came to your mind that speak into this passage?
 - What does this passage reveal about God? About mankind?
 - In your own words, how would you summarize the passage?
 - Is there anything you didn't understand?
- **Main Question:** How does this passage point to or reflect Jesus Christ?
 - Optional Follow-up Questions:
 - Does Jesus fulfill something in this passage?
 - Is there a problem in this passage that Jesus has overcome?
 - How does Jesus bring future hope to this passage?

Connect the Word:

- **Main Question:** How does this passage connect to our lives right now?
- Optional Follow-up Questions:
 - Is there something in this passage that is similar or different from what we are experiencing?
 - How does this passage connect to your personal life circumstances?
 - How does this passage connect to our life as the church?
 - How does this passage connect to our lost world?

Apply the Word:

- **Main Question:** Is there a promise for you to believe, a command to obey, a warning to heed, an example to follow, or a sin to confess?
- Optional Follow-up Questions:
 - In one or two sentences, what is the next practical step(s) you will take going forward this week?
 - What truth about God and His gospel will motivate your application this week?
 - How can we as a LIFE Group help you, root for you, or hold you accountable?

Pray the Word:

- **Main Question:** Ask God for the power to comprehend and obey all that He has revealed in His preached Word this week.
- Optional Follow-up Questions:
 - What did we learn in this passage that makes us want to praise and thank God?
 - What sin in this passage do we need to confess to God?
 - What help or hope in this passage do we need to ask of God?

3. RESOLVE

After you close in prayer, take some time to solidify your group's plan for application of the Word and prayer for each other throughout the week ahead.