

1. What traditions do you especially appreciate during the Christmas season? How do they help you appreciate important people or convictions?
2. Recall what Andy shared about the Psalms of Ascent. How did these fifteen Psalms (120–134) function in the worshiping life of the Hebrew people?
3. Read Psalm 126:1–3. Put yourself into the experience of the post-exilic people of God. Why does this psalm seem to represent such ecstasy and joy? What experience of God in your life causes you to respond in similar fashion?
4. Read Psalm 126:4. What current reality might have caused the shift for the Israelites from recalling to asking? What are you asking God for these days?
5. What do you know about God that gives you confidence in his ability to respond suddenly to your requests? Consider the signs of Jesus in the gospel of John that we've been studying for the last year or so.
6. Read Psalm 126:5–6. How do these verses shape your expectation for how God might choose to answer your prayers? Why do you think God works this way? How does considering tears as sown seeds and joy as part of a great harvest give you hope for your current trials?
7. Spend some time reflecting on the great things God has done for you. Write them down. Then speak them back to God with thanksgiving in prayer. After that, ask God to meet you in your current place. Let him know of your confidence in his ability to act suddenly on your behalf, but also your willingness to wait patiently, even through seeds of weeping, as you trust him to lead you to a harvest of joy.