

# 2

## Hope

### *Psalm 71*

Despite a life of loving God and experiencing God's protection and forgiveness, as an aging man looking toward a menacing future David wondered where God was. Would the God who had been there throughout his life continue to protect him from his enemies? Where could he find hope?

GROUP DISCUSSION. What causes you to question God's work in the world or in your own life?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Speak whatever hard questions you have for God now.

*Read Psalm 71.*

**1.** In Hebrew this psalm has six stanzas following a five-four-five line pattern. What is the theme of each of the sections: verses 1-4, 5-8, 9-13, 14-18, 19-21, 22-24?

---

**2.** How does David's tone change from stanza to stanza?

---

**3.** Which section do you most strongly identify with? Why?

---

**4.** What words and images in verses 1-4 reveal David's pleading tone?

**5.** How has God given David hope throughout his life (vv. 5-8)?

---

**6.** What is at the root of David's sense of hopelessness (vv. 9-13, 18)?

---

**7.** When have you had similar feelings of hopelessness?

---

**8.** What might be at the root of your hopelessness?

9. What are the sources of David's praise in verses 14-24?

---

10. Praising God brings a shift in David's mood by the end of these verses. How can praising God bring hope to our lives?

*Even though circumstances may trigger hopelessness, praise God for the things he has done which give you confidence.*

**Now or Later**

Make an ongoing list of things that bring hope to your life.