

**SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
**DECEMBER 17-18, 2011**  
**PsaLMS**



1. What is your favorite song? How about your favorite Christmas carol?
2. Read Psalm 40:1-3. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being most patient), how patient are you? What has been one of the hardest things to wait for in your life?
3. Verse 1 says that the Lord “heard my cry.” Does God always hear our cries for help? Does God always respond the way we want him to? Why or why not? What do you do when it seems God is taking too long to answer the way you want?
4. Verse 2 talks about a slimy pit. What would it feel like to be in a slimy pit? What “pits” are you in right now? What would it look like to have God “set my feet on a rock” and give “a firm place to stand”?
5. If we had the lyrics for the “new song” that God put in the Psalmist’s mouth, what do you suppose some of the lyrics would be? What are some things that you want to praise God for today?
6. Why do you think that “many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord”? Why is it important that we tell others about what God has done for us? What is one story of how you’ve seen God work in your life?
7. Read Luke 2:15-20. What two things did the shepherds do after they had seen Jesus (vs. 17, 20)? If someone asked you what is so important about Christmas, what would you say?
8. This is the last week of the “Create a Story of Hope” challenge, in which you were encouraged to bring the hope of Christmas into someone in your life. Any stories to share with the group? Any plans for this week?
9. Pray together for anyone who needs to be “pulled from the pit,” and for the joy to share what God has done in your life with others.

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**THE STORY CONTINUES...**

The Psalms are a collection of poems and songs written by King David and some of his contemporaries. The Psalms share feelings honestly, encompassing everything from enthusiastic joy to deep pain and agony. These Psalms became the hymn book of the Jews as they waited for a Savior and King to redeem them. Their hopes were finally fulfilled when a baby was born to Mary and Joseph, although many failed to recognize Jesus as the One they were waiting for. The followers of Jesus continue to find comfort, hope, and words to express their joy in these Psalms.

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