

He was a nationally known worship leader. He held company with the top spiritual leaders of his era. Dishearteningly, he went through a serious deconstruction of his faith and made a public profession of his process. You may not recognize his name, but you may be aware of his work. Thankfully, he journaled his process, a journal that became Psalm 73. As you explore this psalm, in the left-hand column (“Asaph”), journal your observations about Asaph’s process: What was he thinking? What were his weak spots? In the right-hand column (“You”), take Psalm 73 personally. If you were to write Psalm 73 from your personal journey, how would you parallel Asaph’s journey? What are your weak spots that could grow into something bigger? How do you respond similarly to Asaph? Feel free to add more space with additional paper or an e-doc.

## Asaph

### A Psalm of Asaph

<sup>1</sup> Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.  
<sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.  
<sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.  
<sup>4</sup> They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.  
<sup>5</sup> They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.  
<sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.  
<sup>7</sup> From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits.  
<sup>8</sup> They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression.  
<sup>9</sup> Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.  
<sup>10</sup> Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.  
<sup>11</sup> They say, “How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?”  
<sup>12</sup> This is what the wicked are like—free of care, they go on amassing wealth.  
<sup>13</sup> Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.  
<sup>14</sup> All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.  
<sup>15</sup> If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.  
<sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, troubled me deeply  
<sup>17</sup> till I entered the sanctuary of God; I understood their final destiny.  
<sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery ground; cast them down to ruin.  
<sup>19</sup> How suddenly are they destroyed, swept away by terrors!  
<sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when one awakes; you arise, Lord, will despise them as fantasies.  
<sup>21</sup> When my heart was grieved my spirit embittered,<sup>22</sup> I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.  
<sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you; hold me by my right hand.  
<sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, afterward you will take me into glory.  
<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.  
<sup>27</sup> Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.  
<sup>28</sup> But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;  
 I will tell of all your deeds.

## You