**Finding God in the Psalms**

**The Word**

Read together Psalm 27:7-14

**The Big Idea**

Through the Psalms, the transcendent God of the universe invites us into a personal relationship with him in which we attend to the circumstances in our lives and respond by seeking God in and through it all.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. As you read Psalm 27 together, what verse or phrase stands out to you most and why?

2. Sunday’s message focused on the twin postures of attending to our lives and responding to God in the midst of all of life. In what circumstances do you personally find it hardest to continue to attend to and then relate to God actively and why (e.g. Is it in fear, sadness, comfort, anger, busyness, etc.)?

3. Psalm 27 ends with the call to “wait on the Lord.” What is an issue or theme in your life that you feel like you’ve been waiting on the Lord for a long time (maybe years or even decades)?

4. As you consider attending to things in your life, what is one way you could practice that more intentionally in the coming weeks (journaling, meditation, prayer, time in creation, etc.)?

5. Do you have any sense from God as to how you can best respond to him during this season of life?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Introduction

A. The God of the Psalms

The Psalms address a God who is both sovereign, transcendent, and huge but also immanent and intensely personal

B. Tension in the Psalms

There’s a tension in the psalms between the circumstances of the psalmists lives and who they know God to be. But they take that tension as an opportunity to move towards God in the psalms.

C. Longing in the Psalms

1. There is intense longing in the psalms that deepen people’s lives and point them towards God

2. “Longings make our souls bigger . . . You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” –Augustine

4. These longings are life-long pursuits that won’t be quickly satisfied and that we will have to pursue our entire lives.

5. The psalm is a book of longings in which people are moving towards the north star of their longings.

II. Attending and Responding: Psalm 27

A. Attending

1. The thing the psalmist is attending to can be anything in life: beauty, tragedy, friends, enemies, etc.

2. In Psalm 27, David is attending to his fear. We like to deny our fear, but David examines his fear expecting to find God in his fear

 3. How can we enter into this attending posture? (learning from the Puritans)

a. Attending to and reflecting on the day’s experiences and our heart postures throughout the day. And this time of reflection can move us to God.

b. Attending to creation and seeing God in the beauty, complexity, order, and purpose of the created things. Everything that exists was put there by the Creator and is laced with meaning and purpose.

c. Journaling and reflection is a great way to attend to God’s presence and work in our lives and the world.

d. We have an opportunity to be like children who still attend to this world with wonder and curiosity.

 B. Responding

1. David responds with praise in the midst of his darkness and fear (v. 1). He needed to remind himself of who God is even when it doesn’t feel like it. He calls to mind the truth of who God is

2. David orders his priorities and calls to mind his first love and commitment (v. 4). Running away is a non-option because he most desires to dwell in God’s house.

3. He decides to devote himself to his option: to gaze upon the beauty of God

4. Sometimes we don’t like the answer God gives us. But we commit to continuing to inquire of him rather than going somewhere else for answers.

5. Wait for the Lord (v. 14). God’s work in our lives is often very slow. He is on a different time table than we are, and so life with him requires patience and perseverance.