***2***

***Waiting for the Lord***

***Psalm 27***

One of Samuel Beckett's most famous plays is entitled *Waiting for Godot*. Throughout the play the characters wait and wait for Godot to appear, but he never does. The play is Beckett's way of saying that hope is futile-especially hope in God. In contrast to Beckett's despair, the Bible offers hope to those who are fearful or oppressed. When we feel overwhelmed and ready to give up, Psalm 27 encourages us to "wait for the LORD." When we see no possibility of relief, David assures us, 'I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."

1. In what kinds of situations do you find it hardest to wait?

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2. Read Psalm 27. David's confidence in this prayer is based on God's promises to him in 2 Samuel 7:5-16 (see also v. 28). What specific items in the psalm are related to God's promises to David?

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***15 Waiting for the Lord***

Why must our hope be based on God's promises?

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3. Why is David able to be fearless in the face of evil men, armies, and even war (vv. 1-3)?

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4. What images of safety does David apply to the Lord in verses 1-2 and 5-6?

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5. How do these images give you hope?

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6. David seeks not only the Lord's protection but also the Lord himself (v. 4). How is David's intense desire for God revealed in this psalm?

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***16 Hope***

7. What would it mean for us to "dwell in the house of the LORD" (v. 4), "gaze upon the beauty of the LORD" (v. 4),

and "seek his face" (v. 8)?

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8. David's confident statements about the Lord (vv. 1-6)

lead up to his prayer in verses 7-12. What is the substance

of that prayer?

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What real dangers does he seem to be facing?

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9. The psalm ends as it begins-with David's confidence

in the Lord's help (vv. 13-14). How can David's view of God

help you to "be strong and take heart" when you are fearful

or facing difficult circumstances?

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***17 Waiting for the Lord***

10. Why must your hope not only be confident but also patient (v. I4)?

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*Ask God to strengthen your confidence in his goodness and to make you patient as you wait for his help.*