

THANKFUL

THAT GOD IS ON MY SIDE

Pastor David Smith

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

“I’m So Glad God Is On Our Side” — Psalm 124

1. OPENING (5 minutes)

Icebreaker Question:

- Think of a time when you narrowly avoided a bad situation. What happened, and how did God show up for you?

Group Prayer:

Invite the Holy Spirit. Ask for openness, understanding, and gratitude as you study God’s protection.

2. SCRIPTURE READING (3 minutes)

Read Psalm 124 aloud as a group.

Encourage participants to listen for repeated phrases and emotional tone.

3. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT (Leader Reads)

Psalm 124 is one of the Psalms of Ascent — a collection of 15 songs sung by Israelites as they traveled to Jerusalem for worship. These were songs of memory, celebration, and gratitude.

Psalm 124, the fifth Song of Ascent, was sung when God’s people remembered three things:

1. Traitors — attacks from people who meant them harm
2. Trouble — overwhelming situations symbolized by raging waters
3. Traps — hidden dangers designed to ensnare them

The people declared together: “If it had not been the Lord who was on our side...”
This psalm teaches us how to look back, recognize God’s hand, and praise Him for deliverance.

4. MAIN THEMES WITH DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. God Protects Us From Traitors

David had enemies, opposition, and false friends. So do we.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is betrayal often more painful than open conflict?
2. How have you seen God protect you from people who weren’t truly for you?
3. What can we learn from David’s attitude toward those who opposed him?

Key Truth:

Even when people rise against us, God stands for us.

B. God Covers Us in Times of Trouble

David described trouble as overwhelming waters — problems that rise faster than we can handle.

Discussion Questions:

1. What trouble has tried to “drown” you this year?
2. What past victories can you look back on like David did (lion, bear, Goliath)?
3. How does remembering your history with God strengthen your faith today?

Key Truth:

Your history with God gives you hope in your current trouble.

C. God Delivers Us From Hidden Traps

Traps are often disguised as something desirable — things that look good but damage us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why are traps so difficult to see?
2. What traps have you overcome (only share what is comfortable)?
3. Why is it important to testify about what God has delivered you from?

Key Truth:

The trap caught you, but it couldn't keep you — because God preserved you.

D. God Preserves, Releases, and Restores

David identifies three blessings:

1. Preservation — God kept him in the trap
2. Release — God brought him out of the trap
3. Prevention — God broke the trap so he would not return to it

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the three blessings resonates with you most right now? Why?
2. How can you praise God while you're still in something difficult?
3. What does it mean that “the snare is broken” in your life?

Key Truth:

What God breaks cannot bind you again.

5. PERSONAL REFLECTION (5–7 minutes)

Invite members to quietly reflect and journal:

- What specific trap, trouble, or betrayal has God brought you through?
- What do you need to thank God for that you haven't thanked Him for yet?
- Where do you need to trust God more deeply as your helper?

6. GROUP SHARING (Optional)

Allow participants to share one area where they've seen God on their side this year.

7. MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 124:8 — "Our help is in the name of the Lord."

8. PRACTICAL APPLICATION FOR THE WEEK

This week, challenge each participant to:

- Write a short gratitude list of 5 moments where God was "on your side."
- Share one testimony with a trusted friend or family member.
- Pray daily: "Lord, thank You for being on my side."

9. CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the group in thanking God for:

- His protection from seen and unseen dangers
- His deliverance from traps
- His covering during trouble
- His breaking of snares
- His faithful presence