

# HONEST TO GOD

Learning to Pray from the Psalms

## WEEK 3: *Broken Promises*

### APPETIZER: When Hope & History Won't Rhyme

Jesus, in the song you wrote  
The words are sticking in my throat  
Peace on earth  
Hear it every Christmas time  
But hope and history won't rhyme  
So what's it worth?  
This peace on earth  
~ U2 (*Peace on Earth*, from *All That You Can't Leave Behind*)

**Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me  
in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**  
~ Jesus (Luke 24:44)

### DINE IN: Lament as Worship

Psalm 89

CONTEXT...

2 Samuel 7:16; 1 Kings 8:25; Jeremiah 22:24-30; 2 Corinthians 1:20

AN OUTLINE...

1. Praise/Worship (verses 1-18)
2. Remembering/Reminding (verses 3-4, 19-37)
3. Lament/Protest (verses 38-51)
4. Praise/Worship (verse 52)

ANOTHER OUTLINE...

Hey God!  
I think you're wonderful, but...  
Remember those amazing promises you made us???  
WHY AREN'T YOU KEEPING THEM!!!  
Praise you!  
Love,  
Ethan

Jesus as the fulfilment of David's covenant Kingdom...

**Luke 1:30-33; Matthew 12:23; 22:41-46. 2 Corinthians 1:20;  
John 16:33; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15, 18**

### TAKE OUT: Only Jesus Makes Sense

1. Only Jesus makes sense of **God's promises**. (God will always be faithful, just not in the way you imagine. (Better!))
2. Only Jesus makes sense of **our suffering**. (Emotional sense)
3. Only Jesus makes sense of **our need for peace**. (Fighting for a relational kingdom through enemy love)

In the meantime, our role is to be ...

- a. Boldly honest (keep asking questions)
- b. Eagerly hopeful (prayer, even lament, is an act of faith and hope)
- c. Relentlessly Jesus-centred (in our lives and our mission)

**I have said these things to you, that in me you may  
have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.  
But take heart; I have overcome the world.**  
~ Jesus (John 16:33)

**Romans 8:35-39**

NEXT WEEK: "Honest To God" continues with Darrell Winger!

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing the sermon... Was there anything that bothered or encouraged you? Any remaining questions?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **Psalm 89**.
  - a. As verse 1 reinforces, the Psalms were song lyrics. What's your relationship to music? Do you love to sing? Love to listen? Can take it or leave it? Have you ever felt God speaking to you through music?
  - b. Talk about how only Jesus makes sense of **verses 4-5** and **26-29**.
  - c. Did God actually break his promise to David and Israel? Use Scripture to support your answer.
  - d. In what ways do you relate to the first part of this Psalm (pre verse 38)? In what ways do you relate to the last part of this Psalm (verse 38 and onwards)? Which section do you feel most at home in?
  - e. Take ten minutes to sit quietly and write your own version verses 38-51. What are the questions and/or objections you have for God?
  - f. How can the life and teachings of Jesus help you with your questions / objections?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. What has God been saying to you through this week's teaching? Talk about next steps in your life and pray for each other.
4. Is there anything you would like to confess and invite prayer for? This might be a good time.