

# Current



## ✓ Prepare in Advance

Before the Session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the media listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Have the Bible background video ready to view
- Read Psalm 130.
- Optional: Prepare to share the page of quotes from "A Thread Called Grace"

## ✓ Introduce

Explain that Earth Hour happened recently around the world. The idea was to bring attention to conservation and turn off the lights in major cities around the world. The images here are titled "This is what the world would look like without lights." Show some of the images of major cities without lights. Ask the group to take a moment to wonder (silently) as you offer statements like:

- I wonder how people reacted to the darkness.
- I wonder what it's like to see landmarks covered in darkness.
- I wonder if we have experienced times without light like that.
- I wonder if people were ready for that hour to be over. I wonder how they anticipated the lights coming back on.
- Invite people to respond to what they saw in the pictures by starting with the phrase "I wonder . . ."
- Show the *Bible Background Video*, then have someone read Psalm 130 out loud.

## ✓ Discuss

**Say something like:** Jonathan Merritt is an author and the son of a prominent evangelical pastor. He has written an article that describes his experience of abuse. The article is an account of his experience with sexual abuse, recognizing the effects of the abuse, and wrestling with his sexual identity.

You may want to share the lengthy article by reading the quotes page which pulls quotes from the article. Possibly have a few different people read each quote. Encourage discussion with the following questions.

- What do you hear in his story?
- Does Jonathan's story resonate with a story that you know?

- Think of the images of lights going out and waiting for light to return. Think about Jonathan's story. With these ideas in mind, listen to the psalm again.

## ✓ Examine

Read Psalm 130 out loud, then ask the following questions.

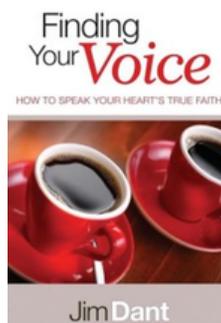
- What do you hear in the verse that says "out of the depths I cry to you"?
- Jonathan Merritt says "the wounds of my heart cry out loud for healing." How does this psalm express a similar idea?
- What would it mean for us to respond like Jonathan, to "invite God into the secret places"? What does it mean to let God "soak it in grace"?
- What would it mean for us to offer support for people who feel like they are waiting for morning?

## ✓ Pray

As we pray, bring to mind a person who waits for the morning. Pray for that person in his/her journey.

Close in prayer.

**By Erin Hall**



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