

Pacific Growth Group – Sermon Questions

Week of October 5th, 2025

Sermon Theme: “Downcast.”

Primary Text(s): Psalm 42:9-11 and Psalm 43:5.

1. Opening

- a. *Begin with prayer, asking God to open hearts to His Word and to each other’s stories.*
- b. Read Psalm 42:9–11 and Psalm 43:5 aloud together.

2. Warm-Up Question

- a. *When have you felt “downcast” in your own life? How would you describe that experience in your own words?*

3. Discussion Questions

a. **Understanding the Downcast**

- i. *The psalmist cries out: “Why have you forgotten me?” and “Why are you downcast, O my soul?” (Ps. 42:9, 43:5).*
- ii. *What do these questions reveal about the raw honesty of Scripture?*
- iii. *Why might it be important to give space for lament in our faith communities?*

b. **The Church Accommodating the Downcast**

- i. *Pastor Brad highlighted how the church is called to walk in mystery with those who suffer, not just offer easy answers. What might that look like?*
- ii. *What does it look like for a church community to “accommodate the downcast”?*
- iii. *Share an example of how you’ve seen the church do this well, or poorly.*

c. **The Downcast Accommodating the Church**

- i. *The sermon pointed out that those who struggle also need courage to step into community, even when it feels overwhelming.*
- ii. *Why is community sometimes the last place someone with depression or anxiety wants to be?*
- iii. *How can we encourage one another to take that step into relationship?*

d. The Power of Story

- i. Modern life often leaves people “storyless” and disenchanting, but the church offers the larger story of the Gospel. How does being part of God’s story give meaning and resilience in times of darkness?*
- ii. In what ways does the liturgy, worship, or communion help anchor us in this story?*

e. Moving Forward Together

- i. Pastor Brad compared the church to a cathedral supported by flying buttresses—people holding one another up. Who has been a “flying buttress” in your life during a difficult time?*
- ii. How can you be that kind of support for others in your small group or church family?*

4. Prayer Time

- a. Pray for those in the group who feel downcast or weary.*
- b. Ask God to shape your group and church into a community of support, honesty, and hope.*
- c. Close by thanking God for the story of the Gospel that gives light in darkness.*