**First Evangelical Church, Arcadia English Sermon Study Guide**

**2023 Annual Theme: Deepening Our Roots**

**Sermon: “The Hidden Keeper”**

**Bible verses: Psalm 27（Date: 4/16/2023）**

**【Please re-read the Scripture】**

**1**The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

**2**When the wicked advance against me to devour[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+27&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14288a)] me, it is my enemies and my foes  who will stumble and fall.
**3**Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

**4**One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.
**5**For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

**6**Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

**7**Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.
**8**My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, Lord, I will seek.
**9**Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.
**10**Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.
**11**Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.
**12**Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.

**13**I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
**14**Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

**Opening questions:**

1. Do you have any questions or any insights to share in "The Hidden Keeper” sermon?
2. What are the three different outcomes when we pray to God?

**Scripture discussion questions:**

1. (Verse 1) In the mind of the psalmist, who is Jehovah? How did his knowledge of Jehovah help him?
2. 【Mediation question】In your mind, who is God? Please share.
3. Psalmist David was anointed king at the age of sixteen, but he did not become king until he was thirty. What was David's life like during this period? How did he face various challenges?
4. 【Mediation question】If you have become a child of God, you have received the promise of being with God forever in the future. Do you think life on earth will be smooth sailing in the future? How do you face it?
5. Among the different desires (or needs) of life, there is only ONE thing that the psalmist seeks. Is it important? What's that ONE thing?
6. When people are in trouble, it is easy to know that they need to seek God. Was the psalmist’s seeking like this? How did he seek it?
7. When a person is willing to seek God all his life, how will God treat this person? What will happen to this person?
8. What does it mean when Jehovah shines his face on a person? What does it mean that Jehovah hides his face from man?
9. 【Mediation question】(verse 10) "Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me." Have you ever felt that God has abandoned you in some difficult times? How do you now understand God's "forsaken" at that time?
10. How does the psalmist encourage his readers at the end of this psalm? What words are repeated?
11. 【Mediation question】Is it easy to wait for God's intervention (help)? Why does it sometimes seem like God never appears?

**Key Sermon Points:**

(1). The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is far more powerful than the enemy’s sword;

 How to pray: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Keeper’s power

(2). The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gives peace to those who come inside;

 How to pray: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your eyes upon the Keeper

(3). The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leads the journeymen to the final destination.

 How to pray: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Keeper’s guidance

**Applications:**

1. Please share a learning from today.
2. If time allows, spend more time to discuss the above meditation questions.