

The psalm begins, as many of the psalms do, in a place we will undoubtedly be, in the end, a place of sure orientation (A).

Yet we'll only find ourselves there after we have gone through the places in the middle, the places of disorienting sin (B) and reorienting forgiveness (C).

Remember as you read that the words of the psalm are meant to **evoke**—bring to mind—an image, a memory, a feeling of a *real experience*. Be open to that as you go.

Consider: Are you being disoriented by sin or reoriented by grace? Use the guide to help you pray into and through the psalm.

PSALMS OF LENT | Psalm 32

WHERE WE ARE CERTAINLY GOING

(A) Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—you get a fresh start, your slates wiped clean. Count yourself lucky—God holds nothing against you and you're holding nothing back from him.

WHAT YOU EXPERIENCE

(B) For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength dried up as by the heat of summer.

WHAT GOD IS SAYING

(B) Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

WHAT YOU EXPERIENCE

(C) I acknowledge my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

WHAT GOD IS SAYING

(C) I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

WHERE WE TRULY ARE...In the Middle of Faith

(A) Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.