

Life Group Bible Study - City

Title: *God is not a Vending-Machine*

Text: Psalm 40

1. Observation — What do you notice?

Read Psalm 40 together.

- What actions does David describe God taking?
- What emotions or experiences does David move through in this psalm?

2. Waiting — What does it really mean?

David says, *“I waited patiently for the Lord.”*

- Discuss the differing forms of patience:
 - Resigned patience (nothing I can do; I just have to wait)
 - Focused patience (waiting expectantly for the thing I want)
 - Relational patience (waiting expectantly for the One I yearn for, as David waits for the Lord)

3. Rescue from the Pit- Perspective

God doesn't just pull David out of trouble — He *sets his feet on a rock* and *puts a new song in his mouth*.

- What does this tell us about how God works in people's lives?
- How is this different from God simply solving a problem and moving on?
- Explore the idea of God putting a new song in your mouth.

4. When Vending-Machine Faith “Doesn't Work”

Sometimes we treat God like a vending machine: we put in a prayer, press a button, and expect the outcome we want.

- Have you ever had a time when it felt like prayer wasn't working? If so, how did that feel?
- How do you see David's relational prayer-song in Psalm 40 challenging a “vending machine” approach to God?
- How do you see prayer working powerfully in Psalm 40?