

*“Vertical Trust and Horizontal Peace”* – Psalm 4  
From the series “Ancient Songs Our Souls Still Sing”  
Summitview Community Church  
January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**In a large group...**

1. *“You have given me relief when I was in distress.”* –Psalm 4:1 (ESV)  
Recount an occasion where God has given you relief.

**In small groups (4-6)...**

Read Psalm 4 and (because many believe Psalms 3 and 4 were written by David during his son Absalom’s rebellion) read 2 Samuel 15:1-16

2. David laments in vs. 2 of Psalm 4 that men have turned his honor into shame through their words and their seeking after lies. Have you experienced anything similar? When you have been betrayed how does it affect you? How do you respond?
3. *“Be angry, and do not sin”* (Psalm 4:4 ESV) What antidote to sinful responses to betrayal does David reveal in Psalm 4?  
Describe how that may be affective for you (in preventing sinful responses to betrayal)?
4. *“Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.”* (Psalm 4:5 ESV)  
What is a “right sacrifice?” What is a wrong one?  
Why does David present vs. 5 as a key to finding peace in difficult circumstances? How does that work?
5. *“...you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.”* (Psalm 4:8 ESV)  
How could David claim that, in the midst of betrayal and persecution (probably Absalom’s rebellion) that the LORD makes him dwell in safety? What allows him to have this confidence? Defeat of his enemies? Something else?
6. *“Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!”* (Psalm 4:1 ESV)  
What is righteousness? Who measures it?  
Consider your righteousness. Where does it originate? What does that mean with respect to your standing before God?

This week consider your anxieties, what is their source? What “horizontal” elements drive those anxieties? What “vertical” perspectives and promises can bring peace to your soul?

Prayer: Pray for the person on your right. Pray that they would be able to see the source of their anxiety clearly and know the peace of trusting the God of their righteousness.