**Leader Copy | Trust | February 15, 2017**

**Creational Text – Large Group**

 **Intro question – Have you ever played a College Bowl confidence pool? How it works...**

 **Intro activity – Confidence trivia game**

 Every day you decide where you are going to place your confidence. Whether it is your bowl picks, your trivia answers, certain people, or even your view of how the world works. Ultimately you need to figure out what and *who* you are going to rely on.

 In the Psalms David asked lots of questions, but in the end he committed to trusting in God. He certainly didn't have everything figured out, and even had lots of worries, but he new God was his hope and his salvation. Nothing on earth was as reliable as God.

**Creational Text – Small Group**

Put the following in order of trustworthyness for your safety and well-being. 1 = rock solid 10 = questionable

\_\_\_\_a 20-year old homemade rope swing

\_\_\_\_a minivan with your parents driving

\_\_\_\_a commercial airplane on a trip to Los Angeles

\_\_\_\_a friend's snowmobile across a frozen lake

\_\_\_\_a bungee jump off a tower in Panama City Beach

\_\_\_\_a trip around the block a skateboard

\_\_\_\_a roller coaster at Cedar Point

\_\_\_\_a luge sled down an olympic run

\_\_\_\_a motorcycle with your friend driving

\_\_\_\_a ropes course at summer camp

Share your order with your group.

Why did you rank the items the way you did? What factors did you consider to come to your decision?

 When people decide how they want to live their life they could put their trust in lots of different things for their well being. Can you think of some? *Money, their work or business, the goverment, their own abilities (work ethic, smarts, common sense...), their family, God*

How do you think people decide what to put their trust in? *What seems more secure, what has power, what has shown to help them the most in the past.*

**Scriptural Text – Small Group**

**Psalm 146: 3-4**

3 Do not put your trust in princes,

 in human beings, who cannot save.

4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

 on that very day their plans come to nothing.

**Psalm 62: 10**

10 Do not trust in extortion

 or put vain hope in stolen goods;

though your riches increase,

 do not set your heart on them.

**Psalm 44:6-7**

6 I put no trust in my bow,

 my sword does not bring me victory;

7 but you give us victory over our enemies,

 you put our adversaries to shame.

 What does the Psalmist say you should NOT put your trust in? Why not? *Princes, extortion, stolen goods, riches, bow, sword*

 We don't have princes with much power these days, but what kinds of things do you think David would warn us about trusting too much today?  *Military power, physical strength, governments, money, stuff, human leaders...*

**Psalm 62:5-8**

5 Yes, my soul, find rest in God;

 my hope comes from him.

6 Truly he is my rock and my salvation;

 he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

7 My salvation and my honor depend on God;

 he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

8 Trust in him at all times, you people;

 pour out your hearts to him,

 for God is our refuge.

**Psalm 56:3-4**

3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

4 In God, whose word I praise—

in God I trust and am not afraid.

 What can mere mortals do to me?

**Psalm 9:9-10**

9 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,

 a stronghold in times of trouble.

10 Those who know your name trust in you,

 for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

**Psalm 145:13-14**

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

 and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises

 and faithful in all he does.

14 The Lord upholds all who fall

 and lifts up all who are bowed down.

**Psalm 40:4-5**

4 Blessed is the one

 who trusts in the Lord,

who does not look to the proud,

 to those who turn aside to false gods.

5 Many, Lord my God,

 are the wonders you have done,

 the things you planned for us.

None can compare with you;

 were I to speak and tell of your deeds,

 they would be too many to declare.

Who do the writers of the Psalms say you should trust? *God*

 Why is God reliable? *He is strong, he is faithful (a rock), he has shown to be reliable, he is compassionate, he has done wonders,*

 What benefits are there in trusting in God? *Protection, rest, hope, he will be forever, he upholds us, he has good things planned for us, his deeds are "too many to declare"*

**Connections – Small Group**

* Why might it be hard to put your trust in God? *God is invisible can seem silent, and our stuff is tangible. We tend to want control ourselves instead of leaning on God. It's hard for us to think long-term, let alone eternally.*
* Sam is a 34 year old guy living in Virgina. He has a nice 2 bedroom house, a pretty solid job, and over $30,000 he's saved and invested in the stock market. Sam has health insurance and a nice, red 2014 Honda Civic (with full coverage insurance). Sam has plenty of food in his cupboards and a closet full of nice clothes. Things seem pretty secure for Sam and he thinks he doesn't really need God in his life. If you were to talk to Sam, what reasons could you give him for trusting in the Lord first in his life?
* Do you trust in the Lord? If so what does that mean to you? If not, why is so hard?
* If you have time, write a verse or two with your own with your thoughts about God's trustworthyness.

 Prayer - Share any prayer requests and pray together.