Practically Speaking: How to Bring the Bible to (Your) Life

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- I. Of skillets and slow cookers
 - a. "Hot skillet" vs. "slow cooker" application
 - b. The pronoun pathway to application
 - i. Them—What was God emphasizing to his people in ancient times?
 - ii. Him—How does this passage connect with Jesus Christ?
 - iii. Us—How should it impact our lives now as saints, sufferers, and sinners?
 - c. Psalm 13 in a hot skillet

¹ How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? ³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, ⁴ lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. ⁵ But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. ⁶ I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

II. Psalm 13 in a slow cooker

- a. Them
 - i. Ouestions to consider:
 - 1. Based on the details of the passage, what is the main theme? What do you see as you continue to gaze at the passage?
 - 2. What response do you think was intended? How might this message have affected the lives of the ancient audience?
 - ii. Overall movement of the psalm
 - 1. Urgent questions (vv 1-2)
 - 2. Desperate requests (vv 3-4)
 - 3. Trust and hope (vv 5-6)
 - iii. Main theme: Cry out to God in the midst of suffering even when he seems distant, because of his steadfast love and bountiful care.
 - iv. Initial links to our lives
- b. Him
 - i. Questions to consider:
 - 1. Where else in Scripture do you see the theme of this passage?

- 2. How does the theme of this passage connect with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
- ii. Christ-centered aspects of Psalm 13
- iii. Additional links to our lives
- c. Us
- i. "Living into the text" (Eugene Peterson)
- ii. "Our task is to make our lodging the Genesis to Revelation narrative . . . so that this story decisively shapes our lives" (Joel Green)
- iii. Questions to consider (How does this passage address me as a saint, sufferer, and sinner?):
 - 1. What does it say about the identity and privilege of being part of God's people?
 - 2. How does it bring comfort in the midst of my suffering?
 - 3. How should this passage reshape my thoughts, attitudes, emotions, motivations, words, and actions? What needs to change in order to love God and neighbor more faithfully in the midst of my particular experiences of life?
- III. You and me—the overflow of personal application into the life of ministry