

Centered in Jesus

Like Those Who Dream

Susanna Hoke

Psalm 126

July 12, 2026

Introduction: For several weeks this summer, Pastor Gareth has invited those preaching to choose the text from which they preach. This week, we are fortunate to hear once again from Susanna Hoke. Susanna is a familiar voice to most of us as she served as Pastor of Discipleship at UPC before leaving to follow a calling to King's Schools. Susanna has chosen Psalm 126 as her text this week. This Psalm was written after the Jewish exiles returned to Jerusalem from Babylon. You can read about this time in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. The psalmist addresses both the hope and the sense of loss felt by the returnees who find themselves in the wreckage of their once beautiful city struggling with memories of what was there before their land was conquered and they were carried away. Now that they are back in the land, they face a rebuilding project with hostile neighbors if the city is to regain its former glory.

Review: What did you learn about being fully known? What are the childish things that you need to put away?

Read: Psalm 126

Prayer: Awesome God, show us the miracle of being with you as we study together. Amen

Discussion:

1. What were the people thinking and feeling as they came to Jerusalem? Who did they credit for this change in their circumstances?
2. Can you tell about a time in your life where you had a sudden change for good? How do you see God's hand in that?
3. In verses 4-6 the psalmist asks for more restoration. This shows the mixed feeling that can come with change. (See Ezra 3:10-13) How do you react to change? What are you celebrating? What are you grieving?
4. This psalm ends with hope. How are you depending on God in your life changes?

Application: Bring your complicated reactions to God. What does God have for you to learn?

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for being there for us in all of our life changes. Show us the dream you have for us. Amen.