

**Memory Verse: Proverbs 18:10**

The name of the LORD is a strong tower;  
The righteous run to it and are safe.

1. What do you learn from Proverbs 18:10?

Manmade towers of protection will someday fail us. So when we put our trust in people or our trust in structures or governments or armies or money... at some point we will have to run away because they will fall. A sad but truth telling image was on 9/11 when the towers began to fall and people were running scared as fast as they could away from those towers. But the opposite is true of God. When we place our hope in in the LORD we will find that in times of trouble, in the midst of the attack, we will run to Him. He is our strong tower.

2. Try to take a moment and remember the morning of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 when you heard of the attacks. Share what went through your mind that day.

Ask people to share personally.

3. How did you respond after the attacks on 9/11

Ask people to share personally.

4. How did you see people's hope and attitudes change that day? Where people around you fearful? Did people become more unified? Did you see people turn to God and to prayer after that day?

At the time I was working at Orchard Supply Hardware in the corporate office and I recall the fear of so many. It was so obvious how people around me were suddenly faced with hopelessness. People suddenly needed God to be there comfort and their strength. I remember praying for many people in my office that week. I led a time of memorial that week to over 250 people from the office and shared Psalm 27. We put our trust in the LORD and when faced with the attacks of the enemy, we turn to him to cover our fears.

5. Has the response you witnessed to the 9/11 attack had a lasting effect people or has it faded?

I recall how so many people in the days and weeks following 9/11 were united. Church attendance was up. People spoke about God and prayer as such an important part of our country and our lives.

People were helping people. People showed concern and love for others. People were unified for one cause and for the first time in memory, people were even unified politically. But that has long ended. Now our people once again disagree, they fight, they build walls against one another, they live for themselves and some seek to destroy each other even though we are still one country.

God gave us a chance after 9/11 to turn to him and for a while many did. But soon it was forgotten and so today we continue to live as a country torn apart and divided that does not put it's trust in God. The good news is that Hope is still ours.

*Read Psalm 27 together as a group.*

6. What does this passage teach you about how you should respond to events such as the attacks on 9/11?

We find hope in the LORD. We find strength in the LORD. We find confidence in the LORD. We find safety in the LORD. When we seek God even though enemies will come against us we know God is for us. (See Romans 8:31)

**Psalm 20:7**

Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.