

**Responsive Reading – Inspired by
Psalm 73, Job 21:7-16, Lamentations 3:21-24**

Truly God is good to Israel,

To those who are pure in heart.

But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,

My steps had nearly slipped.

For I was envious of others

And I took my eyes off of You.

For they seem not to suffer as I do

**They seem not to be burdened – they always
have what they need.**

In their pride they create their own gods

And do violence to Your Word.

They scoff at You and speak with malice;

They set their mouths against Heaven itself.

They even lead others on their own path to nowhere -

People who admire their earthly wisdom.

And they say, “How can God know?

What can I gain by knowing Him?”

Lord, I have tried to stay true to You –

To know You as You truly are.

Yet some days it is so hard to believe,

And the sadness of life saps my Hope.

Yet hope returns when I remember this:

Even when I stumble, Your Hand upholds me.

Even when all is gone, I still have You

And You are worthy of Hope

You guide me with your counsel,

And afterward you will receive me to glory.

My flesh and my heart may fail,

But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

For me, it is good to be near God;

And to trust You as my refuge