

Lesson 1

Psalms 1 and 2

Take some time to slowly read through Psalms 1 and 2 this week, asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your thinking and to speak to you through this portion of the Word of God.

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”

Psalm 32:8

1. Look for a verse in the lesson this week that is meaningful to you and make it your memory verse. Write it down, carry it with you, put it on your refrigerator or mirror or dashboard and memorize it. Share your memory verse with your small group.

2. As you initially read Psalms 1 and 2, what strikes you?

Psalm 1

3. What do you think is the theme of Psalm 1:1-3?
4. How does Joshua 1:7-8 echo this same theme?
5. What do you think is the theme of Psalm 1:4-6?
6. At the end of his life Moses addresses the Israelites in Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 28:15 and 30:5-20. Discuss his instructions.

7. At the end of his life Joshua makes a similar declaration in Joshua 24:14-15. Discuss this declaration.
8. According to Jesus in John 15:1-7, how is it possible for us to live out Psalm 1:1-3? Discuss what He teaches here.

Psalm 2

9. Although this psalm has no author ascribed to it in the Old Testament, who does Acts 4:25-26 tell us wrote Psalm 2?

Psalm 2 is considered to be a prophetic psalm. In it the psalmist focuses upon a time when the world is in flagrant rebellion against God.

It is thought that Psalm 2 has four divisions and each division has a different speaker. To help to better understand Psalm 2 you may want to draw a line between verses 3 and 4, 6 and 7 and 9 and 10. David speaks in verses 1-3 and quotes the rulers of the nations. God the Father speaks in verses 4-6. The Son speaks in verses 7-9 and the Holy Spirit speaks in verses 10-12.

10. Underline and discuss words that describe the scene that is depicted in Psalm 2:1-2.
11. Who do you think is God's Anointed in verse 2? See also Luke 2:11, John 1:41 and 11:27. (Note that the word anointed is translated Messiah in Hebrew and Christ in Greek.)
12. What do the rulers and kings say in verse 2-3 and who is this directed against?
13. Discuss the response of God to man's determination to not be accountable to Him in Psalm 2:4-6 and relate this to Hebrews 4:13.

14. Read verses 7-9. To whom do these verses apply according to Acts 13:33 and Hebrews chapter 1?
15. What is promised to the Son in verse 8?
16. The Bible teaches that some day the Son of God will fulfill verse 9. Describe the scene that is depicted in Revelation 19:11-16.
17. How does Daniel express this thought in Daniel 7:27, also see Revelation 2:26-29?
18. What is the plea of the Holy Spirit in Psalm 2:10-12?
19. How does Hebrews 4:7 make this same plea?
20. According to Psalm 2, should we become discouraged when it looks like the ungodly are triumphing?

Prepare for Life

21. Sum up the teaching of Psalms 1 and 2.
22. As you think about Psalms 1 and 2 this week, ask yourself: *Is there some encouragement or invitation here for me?* Spend some time asking the Lord to speak to you through these psalms. Write down what you sense He is encouraging you to do or to be based on your time in Psalms 1 and 2.

Lecture Notes: