

Week 2

THE KING OF GLORY

PSALM 24

OPENING PRAYER

O God, by your grace, help us to understand your truth as presented in your holy Word, and most fully revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that by the study of your Word, we would know you as the one true God and love you with our whole heart, through the indwelling grace and power of your Son, Jesus our Lord. In his name we pray, *Amen*.

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 24 is the culmination of our lesson on three types of psalms: Torah Psalms (or psalms about God's Word/law), Wisdom Psalms, and Psalms of Well-Being. It ties together the elements we have been learning in our devotions, namely that God's law provides the guide to righteousness, by which we may come to know and love God more fully. It is fitting then that Psalm 24 opens with David reflecting on God's holiness and how to draw near to him in worship. The psalm recounts the event when David brought the ark of the covenant into the city of Jerusalem, often referred to as Mt. Zion. David reflects on the character required to enter the presence of God. Remarkably, however, he also depicts the character of the One who entered our presence so that such a union would be possible at all.

KEY VERSE

“Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.”

PSALM 24:8–9

GETTING STARTED

Have you ever given up on a New Year’s resolution, diet, exercise routine, or commitment to a healthier life pattern? Why do you think you gave up? What would have helped you to keep your commitment?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PAYING ATTENTION TO THE TEXT AND MAKING OBSERVATIONS

Read Psalm 24.

1. Psalm 24 is essentially a processional hymn, commemorating the entrance of the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem (See 2 Samuel 6:12–17). For whom or what are the congregants/worshippers preparing in verses 7–10? Where did they believe his presence dwelled (See also Exodus 25:10–22)?
2. The question of “*ascending the hill*” and “*standing in his holy place*” (v. 3) is a question about entering the Lord’s presence in worship. What are the criteria to enter the Lord’s presence, according to the psalm? In what way is this list similar to the Ten Commandments?
3. Who is the King of Glory, according to the psalm, and what are his attributes?

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

BEARING WITNESS TO JESUS IN THE WORLD

7. What does Jesus say is our reward for obeying his commands (John 14:21, 23)?

8. How does the knowledge of Jesus's righteousness in you change how you view yourself? How does it change your ability to:
 - love those difficult to love?
 - forgive those difficult to forgive?
 - persevere in difficult circumstances?

Feel free to add to this list of things you can do with Jesus.

9. Is there someone you would like to invite into this procession? What would you tell them awaits?
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PRAYERS

If you are doing this study as part of a group, you may want to share your prayer requests with each other. There is a Prayer & Praise Journal on p. 202 where you can keep track of your group's requests or write your own. Have someone close in prayer or pray the following prayer together.

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, who in love and pity sent us Jesus Christ to be the Light in our darkness, give me wisdom to profit from the words he spoke, and grace to follow in his footsteps.

Jesus said: *Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you all your trespasses.*

O God, give me the grace to do this now.

Jesus said: *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

O God, give me grace today not to think of what I can get, but of what I can give.

Jesus said: *When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.*

O God, grant that what I give may be given without self-satisfaction and without thought of praise or reward.

Jesus said: *Enter through the narrow gate.*

O God, give me grace today to keep to the narrow path of duty and honest dealing.

Jesus said: *Do not judge.*

O God, give me grace today to take the plank out of my own eye before I look at the speck in my brother's or sister's eye.

Jesus said: *What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet lose their own soul?*

O God, give me grace to live this day in such a way that whatever else I lose, I will not lose my soul, my very life in you.

Amen.

- Excerpt from John Baillie's "A Diary of Private Prayer," Eighth Day, Morning.³⁴