

Psalms for the Summer Study Plan

INTRODUCTION

What we commonly refer to as the Psalms is actually five smaller collections of poems that were set to music for God's people to use as guides and prompts to worship. Arguably more than any other book of the Scriptures, the Psalms teach us how to worship God with all our heart. The writers of the Psalms cover just about every human emotion from anger and disappointment to elation and adoration. As such, they are easily accessible to the human heart and they lead us back to One who created our hearts and rules and reigns in our lives. As we incubate as a church plan at King's Cross, we are excited to come alongside them as they begin a summer series on the psalms.

The Bible is a wonderfully unified collection of various genres (which is part of what makes studying and reading the Bible so overwhelming and confusing at times). The main genres included are narrative books (Genesis, 1 & 2 Chronicles, 1 & 2 Kings, the gospels, Acts, etc...), prophetic literature (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the minor prophets), epistles (the letters contained in the New Testament), wisdom literature and poetry (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job), and apocalyptic literature (Revelation, parts of Daniel, Zechariah, and some of the prophetic books). When we seek to get into God's word daily, it is always helpful to know what genre we are entering.

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The Psalms fit into the wisdom literature and poetry genre. As such, when we approach the Psalms we are mostly looking for imagery, word choice, and comparison and contrast as clues to the meaning of the Psalm.

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|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: Psalm 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 16: Psalm 42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: Psalm 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 17: Psalm 46 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: Psalm 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 18: Psalm 51 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: Psalm 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 19: Psalm 62 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: Psalm 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 20: Psalm 73 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: Psalm 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 21: Psalm 81 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 7: Psalm 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 22: Psalm 84 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 8: Psalm 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 23: Psalm 90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 9: Psalm 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 24: Psalm 104 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 10: Psalm 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 25: Psalm 121 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 11: Psalm 28 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 26: Psalm 127 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 12: Psalm 32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 27: Psalm 130 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 13: Psalm 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 28: Psalm 136 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 14: Psalm 36 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 29: Psalm 139 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 15: Psalm 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 30: Psalm 145 |

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COMA Method Questions

Context Questions

- Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the passage was written?
 - ***Who wrote this?***
 - ***What incident is he referring to?***
 - ***Under what circumstances was it written?***
 - ***When was it written?***

Observation Questions

- Are there repetitions of words, phrases, or ideas?
- What images or metaphors does the author use? What do these images tell or show us about who God is, who we are, or what the world is like?
- What is the tone of the passage? What emotions is the author arousing or stirring in your heart?
- What is the main point of the psalm?
- Were there any surprises?

Meaning Questions

- Are there specific instructions or commands given to the reader? Does the psalm mention any consequences for not following God's commands?
- What does the passage teach us about God, his people, and his world?
- Does the passage point forward to Jesus? Is the gospel anticipated or foreshadowed in some way?

Application Questions

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude you need to change?
- How does this passage call you to change the way you live?

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Center City Church
August 2021

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