

How to Read the Bible: Poetry
Scripture Reading: Psalm 145
Discussion Questions

1. Today we are jumping back into an old sermon series we started about a year and a half ago but never finished. It was called "How to Read the Bible." Back then there was a two-week sermon series on understanding Biblical Narrative, today we will focus on Biblical Poetry. What were your earliest experiences reading the Bible? Was it helpful or frustrating? Why?
2. Most people open up the Bible and start reading, giving little to no thought to what kind of literature is being read and how that should help us with interpretation. This is fine to start with, but it can be a frustrating place to stay. Reading in this way can be unfortunate because while the Bible is accessible, it's also complex. Are there any parts of the Bible that you struggle to understand? What makes them so difficult?
3. Many Americans don't feel like they understand or enjoy poetry, that is until they realize that many of our favorite songs are highly poetic. How does understanding your favorite song compare to reading poetry in the Bible? Think specifically about elements like metaphors, rhymes, and highly emotional language.
4. Biblical Poetry makes up nearly 33% of the whole Bible. That's a huge amount! Songs, psalms, wisdom literature, and many of the prophets' writings all come to us as poetry. The vast majority of the time God directly speaks in the Bible it's given to us in poetry. What do you think it means that many of us struggle to understand Biblical poetry but yet it makes up such a large portion of the Bible? Do you think it would be worth your time to become more familiar with how to read Biblical Poetry?