

Dear Life Group Leaders,

This week we're taking a break from our series through Galatians as we celebrate New Ground Sunday together. This was an opportunity for us to hear updates from across our family of churches, as well as a sermon from Dave Holden who leads New Ground. I hope you enjoyed hearing stories from churches across this family as much as I did. Dave took us through a few verses from Psalm 84, and that's where we'll focus in this Guide. As you'll see, the first 7 questions are really just trying to build an understanding of the shape and content of the Psalm. So, there's lots of observation questions. I've focused the application questions towards the end, but feel free to introduce these earlier if you think that would better suit your Life Group. I would encourage you to set aside longer to pray in response to this study. Pray for your Life Group as you apply this Psalm... but also pray that we would see such fruit across Everyday Church and New Ground.

God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Psalm 84

This Week's BIG IDEA: This Psalm celebrates pilgrimage to Jerusalem in order to worship at the temple.

Please read Psalm 84

1. What is this Psalm celebrating?
[Leaders note: the joy of journeying to God's Temple to worship, and how wonderful it is there. See v1, v5, v10.]
2. What insight does v2 give us in to what worship would have been like in the temple in Jerusalem?
3. v3, what point is the Psalmist expressing through this imagery?
[Leaders note: Encourage your Life Group to link this imagery to v4. If birds can be at home at the temple, how much more God's people?]
4. v5-7, what are the hallmarks of a pilgrim according to these verses?
[Leaders note: these are Dave's points from Sunday. So, finding strength in God. Focus on our journey. Transformation on the journey through hard places. Going from strength to strength. Take time to dwell on each of these and dive in to the meaning/imagery.]
5. v8-9, what is the petition here? And is there any significance in how and who this petition is addressed to? Are you mindful of this in your own prayers?
[Leaders note: O Lord God Almighty, speaks of God's power and authority. O God of Jacob, speaks of God's imminency and familiarity.]
6. v10-11, what is the Psalmist willing to do and why?
7. v12, how does this Psalm conclude? Do you agree with the Psalmist? Why or why not?
8. How personally familiar are the sentiments expressed in this Psalm to your own pilgrimage and worship? Do you share the Psalmist delight in worshipping God and drawing strength from him?
9. How do verses like Hebrews 11:13-16 help us to read and apply this Psalm as followers of Jesus?
[Leaders note: They set our focus on the future. We no longer need to journey to a temple to worship, God's Spirit now indwells in us. But we still long for Jesus' return and being with God in the new heavens and new earth. Enjoying his presence unencumbered and with all of God's people.]
10. Return to Psalm 84, and focus on v5-7. Take time to pray through these verses, that they would be true of our own pilgrimage through this life.