

# Real World Skit

*Two students discuss praying in the bad times.*

**Student 1:** You seem really down today. Is everything okay?

**Student 2:** Not really. I feel like my world is crashing down.

**Student 1:** What's happened? Anything I can help with or pray for?

**Student 2:** Nothing you can help with or that I can do either. That's what's so frustrating! I feel so helpless. My favorite aunt and uncle have separated, and I'm scared they'll get a divorce. They haven't come to visit in weeks, and I miss them. I've felt so worried that I can't focus on my schoolwork. I barely passed my last few tests, and my parents are upset with me. Nothing is going right.

**Student 1:** Those are definitely bad things! I can see why you're upset. I would be, too.

**Student 2:** I don't know what to do.

**Student 1:** Have you asked God for help?

**Student 2:** I haven't felt like praying. I feel like God is so far away.

**Student 1:** It's hard to pray when we feel terrible, but those are the most important times we should pray. These are problems only God can handle!

**Student 2:** I don't understand why God let this happen.

**Student 1:** People sin and make bad choices sometimes, but God can change people's hearts, like your aunt and uncle's.

**Student 2:** I wish he would hurry up and do it! Why is it taking so long?

**Student 1:** You know what may help? The psalms!

**Student 2:** What? How can they help?

**Student 1:** The writers of the psalms went through really tough times and asked God why bad things were happening. But they also asked God for help. When you don't know what to pray, you can find one of these psalms and read it to God as a prayer. They are psalms of lament, or crying out to God.

**Student 2:** You mean that people questioned God in the Bible?

**Student 1:** They sure did! God understands our emotions; he created us! It's okay to feel down and wonder why things are happening. But in those times, God wants us to turn to him.

*Print three copies, two for the students and one for you.*

**Student 2:** How can I find these psalms?

**Student 1:** There are many of these kinds of psalms in the book of Psalms, which often start with the writer crying out to God but end with praising or thanking him.

**Student 2:** How is that possible?

**Student 1:** That's because when we give our requests to God and tell him how we feel, he can give us peace, hope, and faith. He is in control, and we don't need to worry.

**Student 2:** Wow! I never thought about using the Bible to help me pray before. I need to check out the psalms! I'm tired of feeling so bad.

**Student 1:** Start with Psalms 3–7. They were written by King David, and he's a guy who went through some hard times but kept trusting God. I'll be praying for you and your family, too.

**Student 2:** Thanks.