

PSALMS

songs for all of life

DISCUSSION GUIDE

BRAGGING ON GOD: PSALM 18

Read the Text

Psalm 18

- ¹ I love you, O Lord, my strength.
- ² The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- ³ I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.
- ⁴ The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;^[a]
- ⁵ the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
- ⁶ In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

Main Point

The Psalms are a collection of poems and songs meant to be read and sung, and the range of emotions and feelings are vast. They are designed to help us relate and emote to God our Father. In this Psalm, we see King David praising God during his struggle. ***Throughout David's praising, we see that rather than bragging on himself, he brags on God and His character.*** It's

tempting to take victory for ourselves, but David rightly places that victory with God. David knows and trusts that ***in the midst of our instability and insecurity, God is our rock who is stable and secure.*** David could have succumbed to self-pity and hopelessness, but instead he remains steadfast and puts his hope in God. As we go through times of struggle, that same hope is available to us. ***Real stability is spiritual stability, because God is the one true protector and our one true strength.*** Our hope and joy is not determined by our circumstances, but rather by our foundation in Jesus.

Reflect Together

- 1. *Who is God?*** How is God worth bragging on? What could you say about who He is?
- 2. *What has He done?*** When is a time that you went through either a trial or victory and God brought you through it?
- 3. *Who are you?*** When are you tempted to brag on yourself instead of bragging on God?
- 4. *What are you to do?*** What would you like to see change in your life to make you more dependent on God and to turn to Him for stability and strength?

Abide Together

Pray over what came up tonight and that you would all grow in bragging on God and relying on His strength instead of your own.