

SERIES 3: PRAISE YE THE LORD

3.1

THE PERSON GOD BLESSES

TRUTH ABOUT GOD///

God blesses those who walk righteously.

SERIES AIM

The Book of Psalms provides us with great insight and encouragement in a number of areas for our walk with God. The series will look at the way the psalms direct our Christian lifestyle.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Psalm 1:1-6

LESSON BIG IDEA

I will walk in righteousness.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?///

Just like God judges the unrighteous, He also stands ready to bless those who follow after Him. Jesus guards us and guides us! If we desire to walk in His righteousness, He will help us do it.

We need to decide today, “I will walk in righteousness.” It will not always be easy. In fact, we will have to make that decision again tomorrow, and the next day, and every day of our lives after that. Satan will constantly try to influence us to do the wrong thing, and we must determine to do the right thing. As we walk in righteousness, we will receive God’s blessings. He will place His favor on our lives. There is no reward greater than that!



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way that you feel comfortable. We suggest that you use a journal, your notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// Has someone ever given you guidance that was different from the advice of your leaders (God, pastor, parents, etc.)?

/// How did you respond to that?

/// What is the best response to bad advice?

/// How can we know what is bad advice and what is good advice?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ///

DO WHAT IS RIGHT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Read Psalm 1:1.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

This psalm prompts a simple question: “What kind of environments are you spending your time in?” If we spend our time around unbelievers, especially when we aren’t a light in the darkness, our thinking and actions can be affected in a negative way. If you’re hanging out with atheists all the time, pretty soon you might be the one questioning your faith, not the other way around. It’s important that, every once in a while, we take notice of the company we are keeping. It’s important that we are always on guard because the devil will stop at nothing to hurt us, especially when we aren’t paying attention.

Jr. High /// Take some time to consider the friends you spend most of your time with and what activities take up most of your time. Think hard about if these things and people are helping or hurting your relationship with God.

Sr. High /// Identify some recent actions that you know are not the most Christian things to have done. Were these choices made because of the friends you were with at the time, or is there some other reason?

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Read Psalm 1:2-3.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

This passage offers us a look at the ideal Christian, someone who finds joy in the Word of God and someone who makes that Word a part of every day. This Christian is fed and relaxed by the Word of God, and it is that same Word that allows this person to grow and flourish in the eyes of God. It might seem like you are far from that reality; maybe you struggle to pray and meditate, or maybe you don’t feel like you can read the Bible for more than five minutes at a time. Whatever the reason, know that if you work at it, you can be like that tree and find peace at the waterside. Believe on God and His Word, and you will prosper.

Jr. High /// Make a plan to read the Bible and pray for an increasing amount of time every day this week. Try and start with five minutes of each, and add five minutes each day.

Sr. High /// Make a plan to read the Bible and pray for an increasing amount of time every day this week. Journal about any difficulties you had with it and note the changes you experienced in your spiritual life during this period.

DO WHAT IS RIGHT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Read Psalm 34:3.

O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Today's verse is all about worship. (Surprise, surprise.) This verse may not look like much, but there is simplicity in the act of worship. When we worship God, all of our focus is turned to our Father and Creator, and the rest of the world melts quietly into the background. Just like this verse, worship doesn't have to be complicated. And the truth is, worship looks a lot of different ways to a lot of different people. Maybe your worship comes through sacrifice, maybe through shouting or silently praying. Worship is all about the mindset we bring when we come to God. It is when we let Him know just how wonderful He is to us, for who He is and all He has done. So magnify His name with me, any way you know how.

Jr. High /// Make a list of a few things you can give up this week, and spend the time that you have used on those activities with God instead.

Sr. High /// Consider looking at how much time you spend on social media this week and spend half of that time with God instead.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Read Psalm 1:4-5.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

God is protective over us, and He will not stand for evil trying to creep its way into our lives. He is our fortress and strength. When we are threatened by sin or evil of any kind, it is important that we remember we can run to Him and He will keep and protect us. The last thing we should ever want is to find ourselves being blown away from the presence of God, like others who made wrong decisions and spent their time in the company of the wicked. Surround yourself with good people and continually think on good and godly things. He will protect you. It doesn't mean don't be a friend and a witness to the ungodly, but it does mean you shouldn't make them your best and closest friends.

Jr. High /// How can we impact others without being influenced by them?

Sr. High /// Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were doing something sinful just because everyone else you were with wanted you to do it? How do we protect ourselves from peer pressure and starting bad habits?

DO WHAT IS RIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Read Psalm 1:6.

For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Similar to yesterday's devotional, we see this verse again address the fact that those who live ungodly lives will be punished and lost. For the people who love God and keep His commands, on the other hand, they will be shown a path that is good. It is important that we realize that just because the path of the righteous and holy is good, it does not mean the path will always be easy. The Bible tells us that it rains on the good and the bad. This means regardless of your path, you are going to deal with life's problems. Thankfully, when we walk in holiness alongside God, He is there to support us and pick us up when we fall or feel weak. Walk the path of righteousness, and rely on Jesus.

Jr. High /// Make a list of some ways that we display holiness.

Sr. High /// Why is holiness important? Write down some ways that we can display holiness.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Read Psalm 34:1-2.

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

Earlier this week we talked about worship and its place in our day. The passage above seems to build off of that concept and adds that we should continually be in a state of worship. Now, you might be thinking to yourself, *How is that even possible?* Well, if we take things literally, it doesn't seem like we would have time for much else. But if we look at the heart of the passage, the true meaning is a lot more obvious. The psalmist is telling the reader that praise and worship should be part of our every day, a mindset and a lifestyle, not just what we do when God does something for us. Instead, if we are intentional and make a habit of praising God just because He is God, eventually praising Him will become second nature, as natural as blinking or breathing. When we make a point to praise God because of who He is, everything we know about worship is bound to change.

Jr. High /// What are some ways we worship God that don't involve singing or playing an instrument?

Sr. High /// What ways do we worship God when we are not in a church service? What do you think your most used form of worship is?

