

PSALMS 11-32

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 6, Year 2: Psa 11-32*
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Psalm 11. Why did the people around David want to flee to a mountain refuge in verses one through three?

Who do the wicked people focus their attacks on in v. 2?

How did the threats of wicked people influence the righteous in vv. 2-3?

Why did the people around David feel so hopeless in verse three?

What actions does the Lord take on behalf of His people in Psa 11:4-6? How does the Lord treat the wicked and the righteous differently in these verses?

What reply did David give to the fearful in vv. 4-7?

Why does God treat wicked and righteous people differently, according to verse seven? What is God like, according to this verse? What does God love, according to verse seven? What special hope encouraged David to seek the Lord in verse seven?

Trust in God, live a pure life to be innocent of the charges and let God do the judging. How do we avoid becoming the evildoer?

Realize that sin begins in the heart and if left there will turn into evil acts. Sin is a snare in our lives that will come back to haunt us. Because of our sins, the fiery arrows of God's judgment are pointed at us. We must obey God's call to receive mercy for what we have done. Let us turn to God before it is too late. The things we feel and endure are meant to get us to focus upon God and set our lives to Him.

2. Read Psalm 13. What questions went through David's mind as he waited for the Lord's answer to his prayer in verses one and two?

Why did David cry out to the Lord in verses one through six? Why did David question the Lord in this prayer, according to these verses?

What did David ask God to do in verse three?

What reason did David want the Lord to save him for, according to verse four? What impact did David think his death would have on his enemies in this verse?

What two character traits of the Lord's encouraged David in his despair in v. 5?

How did David's illness affect his relationship with God in vv. 5-6? How did David's emotions change when he reminded himself of God's character in these verses?

What expression of confidence concludes this poem, according to verses five and six?

How did David's memory of the past change his perspective on the present in Psa 13:6? What lessons do you learn from this psalm?

When we feel abandoned, let us turn to God in prayer. Then let us know that God's love is unending toward us. He will not turn

away from us. Let us rejoice in the salvation we have in the Lord because no matter what happens to us, our salvation cannot be taken away. Finally, let us sing to the Lord for He has been good to us.

3. Read Psalm 15. What question opens this prayer in verse one? Who is this prayer directed to?

How does a blameless person treat others in vv. 2-5? What gives a person access to God, according to these verses?

What can prevent a person from dwelling in God's presence in verses two through five?

How did David describe the person who dwells with God in Psa 15:2-5?

What characteristics did David ascribe to the person who has access to God in verses two through five?

How should we treat others, according to verses three and four of this psalm?

Who should righteous people honor and who should they despise in v. 4? Under what circumstances should a person keep his or her oaths?

What advice did the psalmist give regarding money? See Psa 15:5. What promise is given to the person who fits the description in this verse? What lessons do you learn from this verse?

4. Read Psalm 22. How did the psalm writer feel about his relationship with God in the first three verses?

What did the psalm writer say about what God had been to Israel in the past in Psa 22:3-5?

Why did people mock David and how did their insults make him feel in Psas 22:6-7?

What did David say about what God had been for him in verses nine and ten?

How did David describe his enemies in vv. 12-16?

What four figures did the psalm writer use to describe the attacks of his enemies in Psa 22:12-13, Psa 22:16-18?

How did the psalm writer feel under the attacks of his adversaries in verses fourteen and fifteen?

How did the psalm writer recall the four figures he used to describe his enemies later in the psalm in verses twenty and twenty-one?

What changed David's attitude in verses twenty-two through twenty-four?

What vows did David make to the Lord in Psa 22:22-31?

What will motivate other people to turn from their idols and praise the true God, according to vv. 25-31?

Who will join the psalm writer in praise to the Lord, according to Psa 22:26-31? How does this psalm speak to you?

As we seek to understand Psalm 22 so that we can appropriate it and use it, we need to see in it the direction of the history of the church: first suffering and then glory. We also need to see something of a pattern of piety for the church and for the individual Christian. The pattern is this: The real and inescapable problems of life in this fallen world should lead us to prayer. Prayer should lead us to remembering and meditation on the promises of God, both those fulfilled in the past and those that we trust will be fulfilled in the future.

Remembering the promises of God will help us to praise Him as we ought. As we praise Him, we can continue to face with grace and faith the problems that come daily into our lives.

5. Read Psalm 23. How did David describe the Lord and what is He like in the first verse?

What mental picture did David use to describe his role in relationship with the Lord? See Psa 23:1-3.

What comforted David, according to v. 1?

How does the Lord provide for His people in these first three verses? How did God help David, according to these three verses of this book?

What motivates God to guide His people? See Psa 23:3.

What gave David the confidence to face death and how was David comforted in difficult times, according to verse four?

How far does the guidance and protection of the Lord extend for His people in verses four and five? How does God provide for His children, even in the face of death in these verses?

How does God honor those He loves in verses five and six? What did the Lord give to David, according to these verses? How does this psalm speak to you? Are you allowing God to lead you? During the valleys of life, remember that God is with you and will comfort you as you walk. Ask Him to make a way for you when there seems to be no way.

6. Read Psalm 28. What did David believe would happen if the Lord did not answer his prayer in verse one?

How did David refer to the Lord in Psa 28:1 and Psa 28:7-9?

What is the main focus of David's prayer in this psalm in vv. 1-9?

What physical act of worship did David combine with his prayers in verse two?

How did David tangibly demonstrate his worship to the Lord in verses two and seven?

What hypocrisy did David see in the people around him, according to v. 3?

What request did David present to the Lord in this psalm in verses three through five?

How did David want the Lord to deal with the wicked in verse four?

What reason did David have to believe that the Lord would destroy the wicked in verse five?

What motivated David to praise the Lord, according to verses six through eight?

What kind of relationship did David have with the Lord in verses seven and eight?

What kind of relationship does God desire to have with His people, according to vv. 8-9? How does this psalm speak to you?

What David shows us among other things is the need for persistence in prayer. Verse 2 describes this persistence as he continues to plead and cry out to God. This is another aspect that can be lacking in our prayer life. We can see that God has answered our prayers in the past. We can see that God has delivered us from tough times before. We can see God blessing our lives. Let us not be so shortsighted to forget

the power of God to carry us through and help us in our times of need.

7. Read Psalm 32. What gift from the Lord did David celebrate in this psalm, according to vv. 1-11? How did David describe the person who receives God's forgiveness in these verses?

How did David feel when he had unconfused sin in his life, according to verses three and four?

What personal testimony did David offer regarding God's forgiveness in verses three through five?

How did David respond to the Lord's "heavy hand" on him in verses four and five?

How did God motivate David to confess his sin, according to verse five of this psalm?

What did David experience after he confessed his sin to God in verse five?

How did God respond to David's confession in v. 5?

What assurance do we have when we pray, according to verse six?

What conclusion did David draw from his experience in Psa 32:6-7?

How does the Lord protect His people in verses six and seven?

What specific advice does this psalm offer to God's people in Psa 32:8-11?

What did David advise people to avoid in verse nine?

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What promise did David offer to those who trust in the Lord in Psa 32:10? What lessons do you learn from this psalm?

The steadfast love of the Lord surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Which would you rather have in life: the many of sorrows of the wicked or the steadfast love of the Lord? The answer is obvious, but to have the steadfast love of the Lord then we must put our trust in the Lord. We must completely submit our lives to God. In the context of this psalm, we must openly confess our sins to God and thank the Lord that our transgressions are forgiven, our sins are covered, and our iniquities are not counted.

PSALMS 33-49

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. The Bible reading plan for Week 7, Year 2: Psa 33-49*
- b. The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Psalm 33. How does this psalm call people to praise the Lord, according to vv. 1-3?

How should God's people praise God, according to verses two and three?

What specific reasons did the psalm writer praise God for in Psa 33:4-19?

What role does the Lord play in the events of earth, according to vv. 5-19?

How has the Lord demonstrated His creativity in verses six through nine?

What reason do we have to fear the Lord, according to verses eight and nine?

How did the psalm writer describe the power and sovereignty of God in verses nine through eleven?

Why was the psalm writer confident of God's protection, according to Psa 33:12-19?

What happens to those who rely on their own strength in vv. 16-17?

What conclusion does this psalm make about self-reliance in Psa 33:16-19?

How does the Lord treat those who trust in Him instead of in themselves in Psa 33:18-19?

What decision did the psalm writer make, according to vv. 20-22? How does this psalm speak to you?

There is no reason to lose heart with God. There is no reason to give up in our prayers. There is no reason to think that God cannot change the hard times that we go through. There is never a reason to give up. Our hope is based upon much of what we have read in this psalm. God has made the entire universe by his mere word and by the breath of his mouth. He foils the evil plans, not only of individuals but of the nations. God's purposes always prevail. God is always looking upon the affairs of this world and cares for his people. Our hope is in the Almighty God. Let us always put our trust in God no matter the circumstances and wait for God to help us. Amen!

2. Read Psalm 37. What advice does this psalm give concerning evil people in vv. 1-2? Why should the righteous not envy the wicked, according to these verses?

What did David expect to happen to the wicked in vv. 1-40?

What did David say people should do instead of worrying about the success of evildoers in verses three through seven?

What are the consequences of worrying, according to verse eight?

What will be the results of trusting in the Lord in Psa 37:3-40?

What can God's people expect, according to verses 10, 35-36?

What does the psalm say about the meek in verse eleven?

How are the wicked, described in verses twelve and fourteen?

Why does the Lord laugh at the wicked, according to verse thirteen?

How will the schemes of the wicked backfire in v. 15?

When is having "a little" better than being wealthy in Psa 37:16-17?

How does God show His delight in people, according to Psa 37:23-24?

What did David learn from his long life of experience in verses twenty-five and twenty-six?

What blessings do the righteous enjoy, according to Psa 37:27-31, Psa 37:39-40? What lessons do you learn from this psalm?

It better for us to be righteous and have little than do all we can to have great wealth. The power of the wicked will be broken and all their wealth will be lost. The righteous may have little now, but will never be broken and will inherit far more in the great day of the Lord. Let us practice contentment. Let us see that we have so much from God. While we may not have all our neighbors have and all we see in the media, we will never be lacking and never be wanting as long as we are righteous. God is the giver of every gift. Let us trust him to give us all we need.

3. Read Psalm 41. How does the Lord treat weak people, according to vv. 1-3? What blessings does God give to the weak in these verses? How did David voice his confidence in the Lord in these verses?

What did David believe to be the reason for his illness in verse four?

What request did David ask of the Lord in vv. 4-6?

How did David's enemies torment him, according to Psa 41:5-9?

What rumors did David's enemies spread in verses six through eight?

How was David's reputation slandered, according to Psa 41:6-9?

Who else betrayed David, in addition to his enemies in verse nine?

Why did David want to be healed of his sickness in verse ten?

How did the Lord treat David differently than his friends and enemies in Psa 41:10-12?

How did David know he was favored by God, according to verse eleven?

Why did God protect David in verse twelve?

What did David do in anticipation of God's healing and deliverance in verse thirteen? How does this psalm speak to you?

Rather than not believing and trusting in God, we need to continue praising God, as David does despite his suffering. Job leaves us an excellent example of living a life of integrity. For God to be pleased with us, we must also live lives filled with integrity even during our darkest times. Satan is attempting to strip us away from God. We cannot allow Satan to win. God is watching to see how we deal with the tribulations of life. It is easy to serve when God seems to be acting favorably toward us. The great challenge of life is to maintain our faith in the midst of great despair. Yet this was Job's test. This was David's test. This is our test.

4. Read Psalm 42. What images did the psalm writer use to describe his longing for God in vv. 1-2?

How did the psalm writer feel about not being able to worship God in His sanctuary in vv. 1-4?

What main idea unifies this psalm in Psa 42:1-11?

How is the Lord described in Psa 42:2 and Psa 42:9?

What questions did the psalm writer ask in Psa 42:2 and Psa 42:9-11?

How had the psalm writer been involved in corporate worship in the past in verse four?

How did remembering the past encourage the psalm writer in verses four through six?

Where did the psalm writer turn for comfort in verse five?

How did the psalm writer counter his depression in verse six?

What imagery did the psalm writer use to describe God's involvement in his suffering in verse seven?

How did the Lord protect the writer, according to verse eight?

Why did the psalm writer feel deserted by God in verses nine through eleven?

What final advice concludes the psalm of verse eleven? How does this psalm speak to you?

The psalmist is reminding himself to put his hope and trust in the Lord. When our backs are to the wall and things do not seem to be working out the way we expected, it is time to repeatedly tell ourselves to put our trust in God. The repetition

of the phrase “put your hope in God” should tell us that it is not going to be enough to tell ourselves to trust God once. We have to keep reminding ourselves of this! Things will not go according to plan and how we deal with it is a test to our ability to trust in the Lord.

5. Read Psalm 43. How did the psalm writer use the language of the court to present his case to the Lord in the first verse? Who did the psalm writer want God to plead his cause against?

What is the theme of the psalm writer’s prayer in this passage, according to Psa 43:1-5? What lost opportunity was the psalm writer mourning for in these verses?

Why did the psalm writer feel forsaken by the Lord, according to verse two?

What characteristics of the Lord did the psalm writer want to guide him in verse three? What is God’s “holy mountain”?

Where did David get his guidance, according to verse three?

Why did the psalm writer want to go to God’s altar in verse four?

How did the psalm writer plan to praise the Lord when he had the opportunity to go to God’s altar again in verse four?

What questions did the psalm writer ask himself in verse five?

How did the psalm writer handle his own feelings of despair in verse five? How does this psalm speak to you?

God has called us to pick ourselves up in times of trouble: “Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.” To get through the turmoil, we need God. While we wait for God, we cannot allow our emotions to spin out of

control and rule our lives. Nor should we sit back and expect everyone to come rushing to our aid. We are to pull ourselves up and endure. God will get us through.

6. Read Psalm 46. What words of hope introduce the poem in verse one?

What imagery did the psalm writer use to describe the threats God's people face in these verses? (Psalms 46:1-3)

How will the city of God be protected in Psa 46:4-6?

How do the people of God respond to His deliverance, according to v. 7?

What benefits do God's people enjoy in Psa 46:8-10?

How does this psalm describe the final victory the Messiah will bring? See Psa 46:9.

When does God's voice break through, according to Psa 46:10? What specific instruction does the Lord give to His people and what will be the result of God's mighty acts on behalf of His people, according to verse ten?

What comforting promise concludes this psalm, according to verse eleven? How does Psalm 46 speak to you?

When something went wrong, the people of Israel would try to take matters into their own hands and panic. When there was no food, the people cried out and panicked. When they spied out the land, they decided they would stone Moses and Aaron and go back to Egypt. Moses tells the people in Exodus 14 to quiet down, be still, and let the Lord work. We need to do the same thing. Surrender to God's might. We must surrender our will to God's might. God will be exalted in the earth and among the nations. If we will surrender our will and let God be in control, we will see that the Lord of hosts is with us and will

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find refuge in him. Take refuge in the fortress of the Lord, the city of God, to find hope and confidence in any disaster that may come our way.

PSALM 50-69

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 8, Year 2: Psa 50-69*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Psalm 51. Why was the psalm writer able to ask for forgiveness from God in verse one?

What common experience does this psalm typify in Psa 51:1-19?

What was the psalm writer's attitude toward his sin? See Psa 51:3-5.

What main picture of forgiveness is highlighted in Psa 51:2 and Psa 51:7? What does the picture of forgiveness used in this poem reflect about the psalm writer's attitude in these verses?

What do the "inner parts/womb" and "inmost place/secret place" refer to in Psa 51:6? Where does God desire truth/faithfulness, according to this verse?

What did the author of this psalm desire in vv. 10-12?

How would the psalm writer's own experience of God's forgiveness affect others in v. 13?

What did the psalm writer expect to be the outcome of God's forgiveness in Psa 51:13-15?

What does God not require of His people, according to v. 16?

What does the Lord want from His people in Psa 51:17?

How does the prayer for Jerusalem serve as a fitting conclusion for this psalm? See Psa 51:18-19.

What lessons do you learn from Psalm 51?

God desires our hearts and not our sacrifices. Our worship has no meaning if our hearts are not involved. Our good deeds are meaningless if we do not have humble, thankful hearts to God. All that we do must always come from the love of our hearts or else it is despised. Only when those things are right will God delight in our worship to him. A broken heart can only come from a person who has surrendered. We have to destroy our strong will and allow God to rule in our hearts. We have to be moved by our sins and not allow ourselves to become callous concerning the evil in our hearts. We need to recognize our errors, be sorrowful, make changes, and move forward in our relationship with God. Do not let guilt eat us to the point we do not do what God desires of us. Satan wants us to be immobilized by our guilt. Satan wants us to give up and not restore the relationship with God. God will blot out our transgressions and continue his unfailing love when we confess our sins to him.

2. Read Psalm 52. How did the psalmist describe the wicked in Psa 52:1-4? How were David's enemies a "disgrace in the eyes of God," according to these verses?

What did David repeat three times to emphasize his point in verse five?

What is the final destiny of the wicked, according to Psa 52:5-7? What are the consequences of deceit, according to these verses?

How will the righteous react to the downfall of the wicked in vv. 6-7?

What causes the downfall of the wicked in verse seven?

Why did David compare himself to an olive tree in verse eight?

Where did David get his sense of security in Psa 52:8-9?

What vow did David make to the Lord in the conclusion of the psalm in verse nine? Where did David promise to praise the Lord, according to this verse?

How does this psalm speak to you?

One characteristic of the righteous is always praising God. David praises God for what God has done. David is able to look at the past (even though a horrible thing has happen with Doeg and Ahimelech) and see all the good that God has done. Many times we want to ask "where is God?" Can you imagine what this world would be like if there was not a good involved in this world? To think that God is not involved is to believe that this is as bad as the world could be. But this would be a far darker world if God had completely abandoned His creation. David is also praising God in hope. We need to remember that God is so good to us. It is shameful that we can be so focused upon the few things that do not go our way and forget the goodness that God has shown toward us on a daily basis every year of our lives. Finally, David will praise God in the presence of all the saints. The righteous do not keep their faith hidden from others. He will praise God in the presence of all. This praising of God is not just simply giving thanks and singing songs. This is a picture of the righteous explaining to others the goodness of God in our lives. We need to tell each other about God's goodness toward us. This will encourage one another to continue trusting in God's unfailing love.

3. Read Psalm 57. In v. 1, how did David deal with the challenge he faced?

What did David expect from the Lord, according to Ps 57:1-3?

What kind of relationship did David have with God in vv. 1-3 and 5-7?

What two gifts did David expect the Lord to send from heaven in verse three?

How did David describe his predicament in Psa 57:4-6?

What do David's words reveal about his motives in asking the Lord for help in verse five?

What did David expect to happen to his adversaries, according to verse six?

What did the psalm writer do in anticipation of God's help in Psa 57:7-11?

Why did the psalm writer make a vow to praise God in Psa 57:9-11?

How did the psalm writer describe the Lord's character in his song of praise in vv. 10-11?

How does this psalm speak to you?

David was experiencing bad things. David did not experience these things because he had made the wrong choice or had done something wrong. Bad things happen and David was being affected by Saul's evil. But God would still redeem David and grow him into God's servant even though he was sitting in a cave hiding. God could still use David and show His glory even though David was in dire circumstances. This is how God fulfills his purpose for you. God can take anything you are doing and use you to be his instrument. When Paul was imprisoned, God accomplished his purpose. When Paul was traveling, God accomplished his purpose. Even when Paul was persecuting the saints, God's will could be accomplished as those Christians went into the world preaching the good news

of Jesus. No matter where you are in life or how bad things have been, God can accomplish his will and fulfill things in your life.

4. Read Psalm 61. What prayer request introduces the prayer in vv. 1-2?

What kind of relationship did David have with the Lord in Psa 61:1-8?

What place of security did the psalm writer seek, according to verse two?

What images did David use to describe what God had done for him in vv. 2-4?

What motivated the psalm writer to appeal to God in verse three?

What obvious truths did David speak in his prayer, according to verses three and five?

Why did the psalm writer go to the Lord for help in verse five of this book?

What way did David want God to bless the king in, according to verses six and seven?

What prayer concludes this psalm in Psa 61:6-8?

How did the psalm writer expect the Lord to protect the king in verse seven?

How did David plan to demonstrate his own faithfulness to God in verse eight?

What lessons do you learn from this psalm?

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In God, David has always found shelter. He has found rest, comfort, and retreat. So why would he not, in his darkest moments, cry out to the God who is his "rock," his hiding place, and his fortress? And as he cries out, David finds comfort in God's grace and care.

5. Read Psalm 63. What images did the psalm writer use to describe his longing for God in verses one and five?

What is the theme of this psalm, according to verses one through eleven? How did the psalm writer describe his dependence on the Lord in these verses?

What did the psalm writer remember from his experience at his place of worship in Psa 63:2-5?

How did the psalm writer's experience in the day encourage him at night, according to Psa 63:2-7?

Why did David glorify the Lord, according to verse three?

What did David think about before he went to sleep at night, according to Psa 63:6-7?

What did David expect to happen to his enemies in Psa 63:9-10?

What did David expect to happen to those who trusted God, according to verse eleven?

What will happen to liars, according to verse eleven?

6. Read Psalm 69. What imagery is used to describe the psalm writer's situation in Psa 69:1-2 and Psa 69:14-15?

How is the Lord, described in Psa 69:1-36?

What ways did the psalm writer depend on God in, according to these verses? (Psalms 69:1-36)

How did David plead his case before the Lord in verse four?
How did David explain that his enemies were spreading false accusations about him?

What confession did David make to the Lord in verse five?

How was David mocked for his commitment to the Lord, according to Psa 69:7-12?

How did the psalm writer's own family treat him during his time of distress in verse eight?

How did David demonstrate his humility before God in Psa 69:10-11?

How did David respond to the mocking of his enemies in Psa 69:13-18?

What did David want the Lord to do for him in Psa 69:22-28?

What pleases God more than sacrifices, according to Psa 69:30-31?

What call to praise concludes the psalm in verses thirty-four through thirty-six? How does this psalm speak to you?

Many of the psalms are prayers. Prayers are the words that we say to God. Most of the psalms ask God for good things, but a few do not. They ask for bad things to happen to people. We call these "Psalms of Imprecation." These prayers were written not so much to exact revenge upon one's enemies, but rather to emphasize God's abhorrence of evil, His sovereignty over all mankind, and His divine protection of His chosen people. Many of these prayers were prophetic and could be seen taking place later in the New Testament in actual historical events. Using imprecatory prayers from the Psalms today should only be done against our spiritual enemies (Eph 6:12). Praying imprecations on human foes is unjustifiable, as it

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would require taking these prayers out of context. In the New Testament, Jesus exhorts us to pray for our enemies (Matt 5:44–48; Lk 6:27–38), but praying for their death or for bad things to happen to them isn't what He meant. Instead, we are to pray for their salvation first and foremost, and then for God's will to be done. There's no greater blessing than a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and that's what Jesus means by praying for and blessing those who curse us.

PSALM 70-85

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 9, Year 2: Psa 70-85*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Psalm 70. What is the theme of this prayer, according to Psa 70:1-5? What did David ask of the Lord in these verses? What does this prayer reveal about David's relationship with God?

What predicament prompted David to write this psalm, according to vv. 2-3?

How did David want God to treat his adversaries in comparison to other believers in vv. 2-4?

What specific ways did David depend on the Lord in, according to Psa 70:2-5?

How would God's deliverance of the psalm writer affect others in Psa 70:4? What reason did David have for praising the Lord?

How did David feel about his ability to save himself in verse five? What did David ask God to do in this verse?

What lessons do you learn from this psalm?

God's delays are a part of your character building process. When God gives you a delay, encourage yourself by remembering that He never stops working for you, and He knows when and how to help you. Submit to His timetable and His care.

2. Read Psalm 71. How does the psalmist's appeal for help introduce vv. 1-4?

What did the psalmist recognize about God's help in the past in Psa 71:5-8?

Why did the psalm writer compare himself to a "sign/portent" (an omen or warning) in verse seven?

What weaknesses were the psalmist's enemies trying to take advantage of in Psa 71:9-11?

Why did the psalm writer, need the Lord's deliverance, according to Psa 71:10-11?

What renewed commitment did the psalm writer make to God in his old age in Psa 71:14-18?

How does the Lord express His righteousness in vv. 16-17?

Who did the psalm writer hope for, in the face of all his enemies of, according to vv. 19-21?

How is the Lord's righteousness described in verse nineteen?

What did the psalm writer anticipate in the future, according to verse twenty-four? What lessons do you learn from this psalm?

This psalm seems to be a prayer from the perspective of an older man who is really feeling the weakness of his advanced years. the psalmist begins by asserting that God is the source of his strength, safety, and freedom... as if to recognize that throughout his long life, difficult as it may have been at times, God has always taken care of him, and is therefore worthy of his endless praise. But now at this point in life, he also admits weakness. But because we are His children, God knows this about us, and He loves us anyway... in the times when it's easy

to praise him, and in the times when our weakness makes us forget that we are never alone.

3. Read Psalm 73. In v. 1, who does God show His goodness to?

What dilemma did the author of this psalm face in vv. 1-3?

What characterizes the wicked in Psa 73:4-12?

Why do the wicked take pride in themselves, according to Psa 73:4-12?

What way is this a description of wicked people in: "pride is their necklace, and they clothe themselves with violence" in verse six?

What attitude do wicked people have toward God, according to verse eleven?

Why did the psalm writer think that his own righteousness was in vain in Psa 73:13?

When did the psalm writer understand that the prosperity of the wicked didn't matter, according to verse seventeen?

What did God reveal to the psalm writer about the wicked in Psa 73:18-19?

How did the psalm writer respond when he realized that the prosperity of the wicked is temporary in Psa 73:18-28?

What is the most desirable thing on earth, according to verse twenty-five?

What vow did the author conclude his psalm with in v. 28? How does this psalm speak to you?

In times of need, your point of view can make a big difference. God wants us to gain His perspective. To do that, you must enter His sanctuary (presence). Meditate on His Word, and fill your heart and mind with it. Then bring your burden to the Lord. He will help you gain His point of view.

4. Read Psalm 77. How did the psalmist feel about God's inaction on his behalf, according to Psa 77:1-9?

What did the psalmist recall about God's mercies in the past in Psa 77:3-6?

How did remembering God's help in the past make the psalm writer feel about his present situation in Psa 77:3-6?

How was the psalm writer's decision to remember God's help in the past an act of faith in vv. 10-12?

How does this passage describe God's character in vv. 11-15?

How did God demonstrate His power to the nation of Israel in verses thirteen through twenty?

What specific historical event did the psalmist remember to celebrate God's majesty in vv. 16-19?

How did God reveal His power over nature, according to Psa 77:16-19?

What conclusion did the psalm writer make about God's involvement in the lives of His people, according to v. 20?
What lessons do you learn from this psalm?

God does not always provide explanations for your difficulties, but He does provide the promises of His Word. The next time you find yourself in the midst of discouragement, bring your questions and concerns to Him in prayer. Then rely on His Word. God knows your needs and will meet them.

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5. Read Psalm 84. How did the psalm writer describe the house of the Lord in vv. 1-4?

What experience did the psalm writer miss from the past, according to Psa 84:1-12?

How did the psalm writer describe his longing for God's house in verse two?

Why was the psalm writer jealous of the birds, according to verse three?

Why did the psalm writer want to return to God's temple in verse four?

What pilgrimage did the psalm writer describe in this passage, according to verse five?

How did the psalm writer describe the joy of going to Zion to worship God in Psa 84:5-7?

What prayer did the psalm writer offer to the Lord in Psa 84:8-11?

What would the psalm writer choose over status or power, according to verse ten?

What attitude did the psalm writer have toward God's temple, according to Psa 84:10-11?

Why did the psalm writer refer to God as a "sun and shield," according to verse eleven?

What conclusion did the psalm writer draw, according to verse twelve? What lessons do you learn from this psalm?

Do you have a strong desire to worship God and fellowship with Him? You have the privilege of attending God's house and

worshipping with His people? Do you desire to be with them?
Does your heart cry out for the living God?

6. Read Psalm 85. What mercies had the Lord granted His people in the past, according to Psa 85:1-3?

What reason did the psalm writer recall God's faithfulness in the past for in vv. 1-4?

What is the theme of this communal prayer, according to Psa 85:1-13? How can God's people rest secure in His care, according to these verses?

What request did the psalm writer present to the Lord in vv. 4-7?

What promises does God offer His people, according to verse eight? How should God's people respond to His faithfulness?

What mercies did the psalm writer expect to receive from the Lord in vv. 8-9?

What reassurance is offered in Psa 85:10-13? What will God give, according to these verses?

What blessings from the Lord are personified in Psa 85:10-13?

What lessons do you learn from this psalm?

God's people should live with a vibrancy that comes from the joy of their salvation. Does your life still sparkle as it did when you came to know the Lord? Pray that He will revive the church? And pray that your testimony will bless others and glorify the Lord.