



REVIEW: THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Tuesday, May 16, is your last meeting of the year in your small groups. This will be a time to *review* and *celebrate* as you thank God for all you have learned and experienced this year in GTBS.

Take some time this week (May 9) to decide, as a group, what you want to do for your last meeting. Celebrate and enjoy!

Below are some suggestions to help you review our lessons in Psalms. You can prepare to answer some of these questions this week and share your answers next week in your small group.

1. We began the year with this question: Which word(s) describes your present estimation of the Book of Psalms? Explain your choice.

Mysterious	Comforting	Enigma	Relevant	Out-dated
Irrelevant	Significant	Useful	Clueless	Poetic

How has your perception of the Psalms changed? Share with your group how and why.

2. Look back over your completed lessons. Share with your group what *characteristic of God* was most meaningful to you and why. What *image* or *word picture* of God made a lasting impact on you?

3. In the Psalms, what was something new you learned about one of the following *subjects* or *types of Psalms*. How will this knowledge help you in the future?

- Praise and Thanksgiving
- Living Life (Wisdom)
- Lament (Complaining and crying out to God for deliverance)
- Trust and Confidence in God (especially in difficult circumstances)

4. Did you have a favorite Psalm? Explain why.

5. How will the Psalms minister to you in the future? How will you use them?

6. Did you discover some favorite verses?

7. How do you know and experience God better now than when you began this study? (Not know more *about* God, but know God in relationship.)

8. What do you **not** want to forget from the Psalms, no matter what?

9. Look up the following verses and decide as a group which one you believe is the best candidate for **KEY VERSE** in the Book of Psalms.

Psalm	86:11	19:14	29:2	95:1	145:21	150:6
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10. Some of the Psalms we studied were *acrostic poems* with each verse (in the original language) beginning with a successive letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Using each letter of the English alphabet, make a list of reasons to praise God, including his characteristics and his blessings.

11. Read through each Psalm we studied and make a list of *phrases* that describe *who God is* and *what he does*. This list will be invaluable to pull out and read and pray over when you need to increase your *trust* during a difficult time.

12. The following are some examples of simple, personal Psalms written by Joseph **Bayly** in his book *Psalms of My Life*.

A Psalm of Praise

Thank you God
that You see
armies march
a sparrow fall
hear
atom's blast
a baby's cry
smell
volcano's flow
a man's sweat
feel
contour of mountains
a little lump
taste
ocean's salt
my tears.

A Psalm of Desperation

God
hear me
silent
scream
say
peace
be still
to the storm
that rages
within me.

A Psalm of Love

Thank you for children
Brought into being
Because we loved.
God of love
keep us loving
so that they
may grow up whole
in love's overflow.

A Psalm of Suffering

Lord you're the farmer
I'm your field
It is your right
to fence me in
to plow
my soul's hard ground
with furrows deep
to dig down far
for hidden rocks
to harrow hard
but only
if you plan
to harvest
holiness.

Write a simple, personal Psalm of your own perhaps using some of your favorite word pictures from the Psalms or pattern your personal psalm after one of the above.