



Week 31: Psalms 91-100

Study Guide for the week of July 27 - Aug. 2

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, spend time with Ps 99.

The psalmist calls the people to praise because of God's actions in history and because of God's character. List those actions the psalmist mentions. List the characteristics of God the psalmist cites.

Now list God's actions in your life. Add a list of God's characteristics.

Using both your lists, write a psalm of praise to the God who is worthy of our praise.

Was it easier to write your psalm of lament last week or your psalm of praise? Why?

Discussion starters

1. How many of your parents taught you to say "please" and "thank you"? This wisdom is echoed in Ps 92:1. What are you grateful for today? This week? This year? How can gratitude be life-giving? Do you know people who seem to live lives of gratitude? Reread Ps 92:2. A better translation of the NLT "your faithfulness in the evening" is "your faithfulness at night." Do you rely on God's faithfulness at night to keep the world on track so you can ignore the world while you sleep? Why or why not?
2. Ps 95 begins with a typical invitation to praise and the reasons for praise. Identify both these elements. What is supposed to be our response to God's actions (Ps 92:7b)? Read about Israel's response to God's saving action of the Exodus when they were at Meribah and Massah, Ex 17:1-17. Do you tend to respond to the message of God's reign with obedience or complaint? What did Jesus command in Matt 28:20?
3. Ps 96 is a psalm praising God's reign and calling for a response from the people. Can you "sing to the Lord a new song" in the middle of your daily routine? Can you say "the Lord reigns" when the forces of evil seem overpowering? Can you say "the world is firmly established" when things seem to be falling apart? What is the clear answer from the psalmist?
4. Ps 100 may be the most well-known song of praise through the ages. Who is called to praise (Ps 110:1)? The summons to praise in verse 2, "worship the Lord" carries the connotation of "serve the Lord with gladness." How can being a servant bring gladness? The NIV and NRSV better translate verse 3 as "know that the Lord is God." Does praise naturally grow out of knowing you belong to God or from believing you are a "self-made" person? How do you react to the phrase "to praise God is to live, and to live is to praise God"?

Bible verse to memorize: Ps 100:1-5