



Week 32: Psalms 101-110

Study Guide for the week of Aug. 3-9

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, focus on Ps 105.

Reread Ps 105:16-22. What do you remember of the story of Joseph? During the week, read Gen chapters 37, 38-48, the story of Joseph. As you read, note the times God tests Joseph's character and the growth that resulted.

How has God tested your character? How have you felt about being tested? Do you feel like you've failed or passed the tests? Why? Have you needed to repeat the tests? How has your faith matured in response to God's testing? Is God's testing to be feared or accepted as an opportunity for growth? Does growth tend to be painful for you? Why or why not?

Discussion starters

1. Reread Ps 101:2-5. How would you define a life of integrity? List those activities in verses 3-5 that the psalmist would not do. Are these sins easy to conceal in private? Consider different examples of these "private" sins (for example, pornography as looking at something vile and vulgar). How does God come to aid us when we struggle with sins we attempt to conceal (Ps 101:2)?
2. How many miles are there between the east and the west? Reread Ps 103:12. How far away does God remove our sins? When we ask for and receive God's forgiveness, does our past have the power to control us?
3. How many of you recognize Ps 104:27 as a common prayer offered before meals? Share your favorite table grace with your group. Have you gotten into a rut by praying the same prayer again and again and again? Ask another member in your small group to teach you a new table prayer to add new spice to your prayer life – you wouldn't try to cook without spice would you?
4. Ps 109:6-9 has been called a "song of hate." Reread these verses. Have you ever been that angry? If not, you can understand that many people have not experienced this level of victimization themselves. Read 1 Cor 12:26 and Gal 6:2. What would it look like if we understood this psalm as an opportunity for us to "stand in the gap" for those who can't find the words to express their hurt, alienation, failure, discouragement, and victimization? Could this help us do more than simply, prayerfully wish grace and help for them and move us into actively seeking to bear their burdens?

Bible verse to memorize: Ps 108:1-2