



Week 33: Psalms 111-120

Study Guide for the week of Aug. 10-16

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, read slowly through Ps 119

Ps 119 is the longest psalm and consists of 22 stanzas of 8 verses each. It includes prayers for help, prayers of thanksgiving, praises for the law, and vows to commit to following the law.

Spend time just listening to Ps 119 this week. Each day, read four stanzas out loud slowly (there will be only 2 to read on the sixth day), savoring the truths, praying the words, and steeping yourself in the prayers and teaching God is revealing through his Word.

Discussion starters

1. How are you coping with the current economy? Have you made changes to how you live or manage your money? Do you feel more or less generous than you did 18 months ago? Why? Reread Ps 112:5. Generosity deals with two problems we tend to have with money: 1) our temptation to hurt others in order to get more money and 2) our temptation to hoard because we fear losing money. What temptation is the strongest for you? How can generosity deal with that temptation?
2. Ps 113 is traditionally used during the time of Passover and Easter. Reread it and circle or highlight each time the word “name” is used. In ancient cultures, names were intended to convey the essence, reality or identity of a person. Now do the same with the words that speak to God’s actions in verses 6-9. God’s identity is described in terms of his activity. Can your identity or your beliefs be discovered by observing your actions? If your name were a verb, what would it be?
3. What do you think is the goal of human life? What does our culture say that goal is? Your employer? Your family? Your friends? Reread Ps 117. What does the psalmist name as the goal of human life? The first question and answer combination in the Westminster Catechism is this pair: Q: What is the chief end [goal] of man? A: Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever. What implications does this have for how you live your life?
4. Reread Ps 118:24. Are you able to rejoice every day? Why or why not? What did you do last night before going to bed to create the next morning or assure the sun would rise on time? Are you in control of the universe or is God? How can understanding that God is in ultimate control lead to rejoicing? What wisdom is there in the African proverb: “You cannot use your hand to force the sun to set”?

Bible verse to memorize: Ps 119:105