

CMS SUMMER SCHOOL
6 - 12 JANUARY 2007 KATOOMBA

Years 9-10

The Psalms



01.
PRAY

Pray now for world mission

02.
CARE

Care for missionaries at home and on location

03.
GIVE

Give time or money to support missionaries

04.
GO

Thinking of serving for the long or short-term

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CMS Summer School 2007 Years 9 + 10

The Psalms

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Talk 1 – Psalm 8

Bible Study 1 – Psalm 145

1. If you asked your average person on the street “what is the place of humans in the world?”, what do you think they would say?

2. Where does Psalm 8 tells us we fit in?

3. Ps 145 is a song of praise by David. It contains a whole range of descriptions of God’s character. Read the psalm and fill out the table below by summarising what each of the verses says about the character of God.

verse	summary
3	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
11	
13	
14	

15-16	
17	
18	
19	
20	

4. How do these characteristics make God different from humans? (think back to Ps 8, and you may also like to refer to Ps 90:3-10)

5. What do you think it means by he will “*satisfy the desires of every living thing*” (vs. 16) and “*He fulfills the desires of those who fear him*” (vs. 19). Does it mean we will get everything we want?

6. Which one of these characteristics gives you the most comfort and confidence? Why?

7. Which one of these characteristics gives you the most fear? Why?

8. In your own words write a description of God based upon Psalm 145.

9. According to David in the psalm, what is an appropriate response to the LORD? (vs. 1-7, 10-12, 18-21)

10. Given where we stand before God, how might that affect the way we live?

Talk 2 – Psalm 14

Bible Study 2 – Psalm 94

1. If a speaker got up at a Christian gathering and called for God to punish and destroy the wicked non-Christians, how would you feel?

2. **Read Psalm 94.** According to the psalmist, what have these wicked people done that is so deserving of judgment?

3. Where do you see injustice and wickedness in the world?

4. What is their attitude toward God? (note especially vs. 7) How does this make them “fools” (vs. 8-10)?

5. What will God do to such people in the end?

6. In contrast, what is in store for the man who learns from God’s law (vs. 12-15)?

7. Do you think this is an appropriate psalm to pray to God? What about “loving enemies”?

8. **Read Romans 3:9-18.** This passage quotes a number of Psalms. What does it tell us about the nature of humanity?

9. Should we be fearful or rejoicing at the thought that God will destroy the wicked?

Talk 3 – Psalm 51

Bible Study 3 – Psalm 25

1. When you're caught out in sin, how do you normally react?

2. How bad a sinner do you think you are?

3. **Read Psalm 25.** Find all the different words for "sin" used here and in Ps 51.

4. What does David ask of God in these verses?

- 4-5
- 7,11,18
- 16-17
- 2, 20

5. What does it mean to be "put to shame"? Have you been shamed before? How and why?

6. Given the context of the whole Psalm, what is it that can put us to shame?

7. How can we be guarded against this?

8. How is God described in vs. 8-10?

9. What, then, should we do about sin in our lives?

10. What promises to the faithful are contained in this psalm? Do you have to be perfect to gain these blessings?

11. Think of some practical steps you can take to “guard you life” against sin.

12. **Read Hebrews 9:26-28.** How has God finally dealt with sin?

Talk 4 – Psalm 59

Bible Study 4 – Psalms 13 and 88

1. Do you ever feel that God is far away or doesn't care about you? If so, when do you feel like this?

2. **Read Psalm 88.** What situation do you think the writer Heman the Ezrahite is in? What is happening to him?

3. What does he think about God?

4. How does he respond to the situation he's in (vs. 1-2, 9, 13)?

5. Unlike many other "lament" psalms this one doesn't have an encouraging ending. Do you think Heman the Ezrahite has faith in God or not?

6. **Read Psalm 13.** What is the question that David is asking God in vs. 1-2?

7. How does David respond in vs. 5-6? What does he say about God?

8. What can we learn about life as one of God's people from these psalms?

9. What would you say to someone who tells you that if you become a Christian life will always be happy?

10. Read one or more of the following New Testament passages:

- Mark 14:32-36
- John 15:18-21
- Hebrews 4:14-16
- Matthew 11:28-30

What encouragement do we get from Jesus in the face of suffering?

11. How do you deal with situations where everything seems hopeless? What can we learn from these passages?

12. Below are three situations that would be hard to deal with.

- (a) Your parents are getting a divorce
- (b) You have been diagnosed with a serious illness
- (c) A very good friend has rejected you
- (d) or add one of your own

In pairs discuss one of them by thinking through the following questions:

- How would you or a friend feel?
- If someone you knew was in the situation, what would you say to them?
- How can God help with this situation?

Talk 5 – Psalm 110

Bible Study 5 – Psalm 72

Psalm 110 contains a range of prophecies about the Messiah, several of which are quoted in the New Testament. In the same way, Psalm 72 also looks forward to a perfect, eternal king. But at the same time it's also about King Solomon, David's son. To properly understand Ps 72 we need to do some background research on Solomon and some of the other kings of Israel and Judah.

1. **Read Psalm 72:1-17.** Write down a list of features of this king in the table below:

Verse	Characteristics
2	
4	
5	
8-11	
12-14	
17	

2. How does this king's reign contrast with the complaints in many of the previous psalms we have looked at (particularly Ps 13, 88 and 94)?

3. The title “Of Solomon” can mean *by* Solomon or *about* Solomon. **Read 1 Kings 10:23-25.** How does Solomon fulfill some of the descriptions in Psalm 72?

4. **Now read 1 Kings 11:1-11.** Can Solomon really be the king described in Psalm 72? Why/why not?

In fact, none of the kings that follow Solomon are found to be this king who will “endure as long as the sun”. There are a couple of good ones over the next 400 years, but most are evil and unjust (Jeremiah 22:11-30 speaks words of condemnation against a series of kings).

But Psalm 72 looks forward to a king who will even fulfill the promise to Abraham to bless the whole world (compare Genesis 12:3 with Ps 72:17b)! Who can this be? Drum roll....

5. **Read Luke 1:26-33.** How is Jesus described in this passage?

6. How, then, is Jesus the ultimate fulfillment of Psalm 72?

7. If you have time, you may like to close by reading the description of the eternal, righteous reign of Jesus in Revelation 21:1-8 and 21:22-22:5

Talk 6 – Psalm 73

Bible Study 6 – Psalm 2

1. From what you know of the world today, do you think the nations and rulers conspire against God? If so, how?

2. This conspiracy is defined in vs. 2 by their desire to “break their chains” and “throw off their fetters”. What do you think this means, and how do we see this in the way people reject God’s authority?

3. How does the LORD respond to this rebellion (vs. 4-6)?

According to vs. 6, God will install a king to rule and judge the earth. But who is this? In many ways, this is like Psalm 72 which we read yesterday – a psalm about Solomon but not about Solomon! Although Psalm 2 doesn’t have a title or by-line, Acts 4:25 says it is by David. So, the *Anointed One* (vs. 2), the *King* (vs. 6) and the *Son* (vs. 7,12) all refer to David. But we also know that Jesus is the ultimate, everlasting king of David’s line – as we saw from Luke yesterday.

4. How is the Son going to rule (vs. 8-9)?

5. What do you think it means by “kiss the Son”? What is the reason given why we should do this?

6. In our churches Jesus is most often presented as a loving, gentle, sacrificial saviour (which he is). In popular culture (think the Simpsons, South Park, etc), Jesus is often portrayed as a nice guy but somehow weak and pathetic. How is the description in Psalm 2 different?

7. Some people claim that using fear to encourage people to follow God is wrong and manipulative. How would you respond to that given what we've read in Psalm 2?

8. This psalm gives us a fairly stern warning – but also a promise of safety (vs. 10-12). What are you going to do about it? Be specific. Talk in the group as a whole, in pairs, or with a leader.

Personal Prayer and Bible Study – Psalm 119

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. It is an acrostic poem based on the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It has been divided into several sections below with some simple questions to help you think through what it is saying. You'll notice that there is a similar theme throughout. Feel free to take some notes in the spaces below. There are also some definitions at the end to help you in your reading.

1. Psalm 119:1-32

- What does it say about God's Word?
- What is the impact of the Word?
- What is the impact of God's Word in your life?

- Spend time in prayer

2. **Psalm 119:33-64**

- What does it say about God's Word?
- What is the impact of the Word?
- What is the impact of God's Word in your life?

- Spend time in prayer

3. **Psalm 119:65-96**

- What does it say about God's Word?
- What is the impact of the Word?
- What is the impact of God's Word in your life?

- Spend time in prayer

4. Psalm 119:97-128

- What does it say about God's Word?
- What is the impact of the Word?
- What is the impact of God's Word in your life?

- Spend time in prayer

5. Psalm 119:129-160

- What does it say about God's Word?
- What is the impact of the Word?
- What is the impact of God's Word in your life?

- Spend time in prayer

6. Psalm 119:161-176

- What does it say about God's Word?
- What is the impact of the Word?
- What is the impact of God's Word in your life?

- Spend time in prayer

Definitions:

Decree – Proclamation given by an authority

Discernment – The ability to make wise judgments

Dross – Waste matter, rubbish

Portion - Inheritance

Precept – Command given as a rule of action or conduct

Statute – Law