

SMALL GROUP HOST PACK



Dear Small Group Leaders and Participants,

We are excited to kick off our new 6-week teaching series called “Psalms: Our Life in God’s Hands,” starting April 7. In this series, we will learn more about the significance and purpose of the Psalms and look deeper each week into a specific Psalm to see what God shows us about who He is in our lives.

The Psalms, through a collection of poems, songs & prayers, provide answers and biblical wisdom to these questions and more. They show us God’s greatness in every aspect of our lives and provide meaning and connection to Him and His story. As we see how God interacts with His people throughout the Psalms, we understand how He desires to interact with us today. We come to see how, just like David, Asaph, Moses, Solomon, and others in the Psalms, our life is in God’s Hands through it all.

When we are finished with this series, you will see that nothing we experience takes God by surprise. He will use everything in our lives to reveal more of Himself to us and draw us closer to Him if we will allow. As Small Groups, you will play a critical role in unpacking these lessons and facilitating deeper discussions around them. This is an opportunity to challenge one another, grow in understanding, and support each other as we strive to live out our faith more authentically.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to Small Groups. Your willingness to lead and participate in these discussions is instrumental to the spiritual growth of our church community.



Stephen Martin
Founding & Senior Pastor

A handwritten signature of Stephen Martin in black ink, written in a cursive style.

PSALMS

OUR LIFE IN GOD'S HANDS

SMALL GROUP GUIDE
WEEK ONE

The Big Idea

We open the series looking at the structure and context of the Psalms, including different authors, styles, and themes throughout. Then, in Psalm 1 and 19 we see how God shows us what is in store for those that choose Him.

Things to Remember

“God’s creation and His Word are perfect guides that lead us, transform us, and reveal His glory to us.”

Next Steps

This week, take time each day to observe God’s creation and reflect on what it tells you about God. Choose a passage from Psalm 19 to meditate on each day, asking God to reveal Himself to you through His Word. Consider journaling about your observations and reflections to track how God is speaking to you and leading you.

Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on a time when you felt deeply connected to God through His creation. How did this experience help you understand God’s character or His plans for you?
2. Share an instance when reading the Bible changed your perspective or led you to a significant decision. How did God’s Word guide you in that moment?
3. David describes God’s law as perfect and His commandments as enlightening. Can you share a personal experience where following God’s Word brought clarity or joy to your life?
4. Discuss how the concept of God’s creation revealing His glory (as in Psalm 19) has impacted your daily life or spiritual practices.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for revealing Yourself through the beauty of Your creation and the truth of Your Word. Help us to see Your hand in all things and to follow Your guidance with open hearts. Teach us to find joy in Your statutes and to live in the light of Your wisdom and love. Amen.

Key Verses

Psalm 19:1-6, Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:7-11

PSALMS

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE
WEEK TWO

The Big Idea

In week two we unpack Psalm 23, one of the most famous Psalms, and see how God cares for us as our Great Shepherd. We will see how being led by God means we lack for nothing. He gives us rest, strength, protection, comfort, blessing, goodness, and unfailing love.

Things to Remember

“God’s care for us is comprehensive—covering our physical needs, emotional support, guidance, protection, and eternal destiny. Like a shepherd with his flock, He knows us intimately and provides for us completely.”

Next Steps

Throughout this week, spend time each day reflecting on a different aspect of God’s care as illustrated in Psalm 23. Write down instances where you see God’s provision, guidance, and protection in your daily life. Consider sharing these insights with a friend or family member as a testimony of God’s faithfulness.

Discussion Questions

1. Reflecting on Psalm 23 and David’s assertion that “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want,” can you share a personal experience where you truly felt that God provided for you in an unexpected way? How did this experience help you understand the nature of God as your provider?
2. In times of “walking through the darkest valley,” as David describes, how have you experienced God’s protection and comfort in your own life? Discuss how this aligns with the image of God as a shepherd who guards and guides.
3. Considering the verse “He restores my soul,” discuss a moment when you felt spiritually renewed or rejuvenated by God. How did this restoration affect your perspective or direction in life?
4. Psalm 23 ends with the confidence of dwelling in the house of the Lord forever. Share how the promise of eternal fellowship with God shapes your daily living and decisions.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being our Shepherd, who cares for us in every aspect of our lives. Help us to trust in Your provision, follow Your guidance, and rest in Your protection. May we live in the assurance of Your goodness and love all the days of our lives, looking forward to the day we will dwell in Your house forever. Amen.

Key Verses

Psalm 23:1-6, John 10:11, Hebrews 13:20

PSALMS

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WEEK THREE

The Big Idea

This week we look closer at how God forgives us in Psalm 51. This Psalm of David shows his heart of repentance after being confronted by the Prophet Nathan about his sin with Bathsheba. God's forgiveness extends to us when we humbly and sincerely acknowledge our sin and repent no matter the severity of our sin.

Things to Remember

"God's forgiveness is transformative, turning our worst moments into opportunities for spiritual renewal and deeper intimacy with Him."

Next Steps

This week, spend time reflecting on Psalm 51, considering areas in your life that may need God's merciful forgiveness. Seek to understand God's heart through His Word, allowing it to transform your thinking and actions. Perhaps, write a personal prayer of repentance and commitment, echoing David's heartfelt return to God.

Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on a time when you, like David, had to confront a mistake or sin in your life. How did acknowledging this before God change your relationship with Him?
2. David's repentance in Psalm 51 reveals a deep understanding of God's character. Share how an experience of God's forgiveness has deepened your understanding of His love and mercy.
3. The psalm shows a progression from confession to restoration. Can you share a journey of your own from acknowledging sin to experiencing God's cleansing and renewal?
4. Psalm 51 ends with a commitment to continue serving God despite past failures. Discuss how forgiveness has empowered you to serve God with a renewed spirit.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the boundless mercy and forgiveness You offer us. Like David, help us to come before You with honest hearts, acknowledging our failings, and receiving Your cleansing. May Your Spirit renew us, guiding us back to the path of righteousness, for Your name's sake. Amen.

Key Verses

Psalm 51:1-2, James 4:7, 1 John 2:1

PSALMS

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WEEK FOUR

The Big Idea

In week four we see how God fulfills us when we remain faithful to Him. We will discover, like Asaph, that the reward of following God is far greater than the rewards of following the enemy and the ways of the world. We will understand how acknowledging and dealing with sin in our own heart will allow us to maintain God's perspective in our life.

Things to Remember

"Deep, lasting fulfillment is found in our relationship with God, above all worldly offerings."

Next Steps

In the coming week, make a conscious effort to seek moments of quiet reflection, perhaps in the morning or evening, to contemplate your relationship with God and areas of life where you might be seeking fulfillment outside of Him. Engage in a daily practice of journaling your thoughts and prayers, specifically focusing on aspects of your life where you need God's guidance to realign your priorities towards Him. Consider initiating a conversation with a trusted friend or mentor about your journey towards finding fulfillment in God, sharing insights and challenges. This exchange can provide mutual encouragement and accountability as you both pursue a deeper connection with God.

Discussion Questions

1. Asaph grapples with the prosperity of the wicked versus the righteousness of the faithful. Can you recall a personal realization that reshaped your understanding of true prosperity?
2. When Asaph enters God's sanctuary, his perspective shifts. Describe a moment when an encounter or experience significantly altered your outlook on life's challenges.
3. The psalmist moves from external observations to introspection about his own heart. How has self-reflection led you to a deeper appreciation of God's sufficiency?
4. The Psalm ends with Asaph's determination to stay near God and proclaim His works. How does this resolve inspire your own faith journey, especially in moments of doubt or struggle?

Closing Prayer

God, we thank You for the profound truth that our ultimate fulfillment comes from You alone. Guide our hearts and minds as we navigate the complexities of this life, keeping us anchored in Your love and truth. Help us to recognize the fleeting nature of worldly gains and find our true joy and satisfaction in Your presence. Amen.

Key Verses

Psalm 72, Psalm 73

PSALMS

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE
WEEK FIVE

The Big Idea

In week five we will dive into Psalm 91, another famous Psalm, and explore how God protects us when He is our refuge. We will come to understand what it means to “live in the shelter of the Most High” and all of His promises towards us when we do.

Things to Remember

“In dwelling in the shelter of the Most High and making Him our refuge, we are promised God’s protection, underscoring the profound peace and security found in His presence.”

Next Steps

Set aside time each day to meditate on Psalm 91, focusing on the attributes of God as your protector. Engage in prayer, specifically asking for God’s protection over areas of your life where you feel vulnerable or fearful. Share the promises found in Psalm 91 with someone who is going through a difficult time, offering them hope and assurance in God’s protection. Commit to a daily practice of acknowledging God’s presence in your life, whether through journaling, prayer, or quiet contemplation, reinforcing the truth that His protection is always near.

Discussion Questions

1. When have you felt enveloped by God’s protection during a perilous period, drawing parallels to the imagery of Psalm 91?
2. Psalm 91 emphasizes the importance of dwelling in God’s presence for protection. How does this concept manifest in your daily practices or spiritual life?
3. The Psalm suggests a deep trust in God’s deliverance from harm. Can you share an instance where trust in God’s protection overcame fear or anxiety?
4. Reflecting on the Psalm’s promise of angelic guardianship, have there been moments in your life that you attribute to divine intervention or protection?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the unshakeable protection You provide us, as affirmed in Psalm 91. May we continually seek refuge in Your presence, trusting in Your promise to guard and guide us through every circumstance. Grant us the faith to rest in the shadow of Your wings, knowing that You are our fortress and deliverer. Amen.

Key Verses

Psalm 91, James 4:7, Psalm 119:9-11

PSALMS

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE
WEEK SIX

The Big Idea

We will wrap up this series in week 6 looking into Psalm 119 and 150. We will dig deeper into Psalm 119 and uncover the richness and reward of having a commitment to knowing and obeying God's word. In Psalm 150, we will end as the Psalms do, in great expression of praise to God, with instruments, singing, and dancing.

Things to Remember

"God's Word is a treasure trove of wisdom, offering light for our paths and joy in our obedience. Let every breath praise the Lord for His unmatched greatness."

Next Steps

Commit to reading a section of Psalm 119 each morning, asking God to reveal one actionable insight each day. Incorporate a daily practice of praise, using music, prayer or writing to express your gratitude and awe for God. Reflect on your current challenges or decisions and seek out specific scriptures in Psalm 119 that address these areas, meditating on them and applying the insights to your life. Share the joy and strength you find in God's Word with a friend, encouraging each other in your walks with God.

Discussion Questions

1. How has a specific verse from Psalm 119 illuminated a path for you during a challenging time, reflecting its role as a lamp and light?
2. Psalm 119 celebrates the joy of following God's commandments. Share a time when obedience to God's Word led you to unexpected joy.
3. The psalmist values God's teachings above all riches. Discuss a moment when you chose spiritual wisdom over worldly gain and the outcome of that choice.
4. With Psalm 150 as a guide, how do you incorporate praise into your daily life, and what impact does it have on your spiritual well-being?

Closing Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the gift of Your Word, which guides, revives, and enlightens us. Inspire us to seek Your wisdom daily and to live out Your teachings with joy. May our lives be filled with the music of praise, recognizing Your greatness in every moment. Amen.

Key Verses

Psalm 119:105, Psalm 119:9, Psalm 150:6

