



Bible
BOOK CLUB

December 2020 - Psalms

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, be with us as we gather to read and reflect on your word in the book of Psalms. Help us to hear in the voice of the Psalmist all of our own emotions and needs that we bring before you. Guide us as we journey to discover the praise, thanksgiving, lament and joy that weave through each of these songs. Bless us as we share with each other the meanings we hear and the comforts and challenges that we find. Help your word to speak to us this day, and keep us always in the knowledge of your loving care for us. In your name, we pray. Amen.

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- The psalms are like exclamation marks of the soul, allowing us a way to pour out our deepest emotions before God. What are the feelings that you are bringing to God today?
- The psalms were likely known by heart to Jesus. Which psalms do you know by heart? Which would you like to learn?
- In most Christian bibles, the Psalms follow the book of Job. What are some themes that continue from that book into this one?
- Psalms are helpful for every day prayers and also for praying in challenging times. Which psalms would you turn to in each of these?
- Psalm 22 contains some of the oldest Hebrew poetry in the Bible. How is it still relevant to us today?
- Psalm 23 is probably the most famous psalm. How does the image of a 'shepherd' God comfort us?
- Psalm 42 describes a soul that longs for God like a deer longs for the cool waters of a stream. Are there times when you long for God to refresh you in this way?
- Psalm 104 is thought of as a Creation hymn. How can it be compared to Genesis 1?

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BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- Psalm 119 is the longest psalm. It describes a love of 'laws' that God has set down in Scripture. How is it helpful and/or challenging to imagine a love of law?
- Psalm 139 describes God's love of us even before we were born. How easy or hard is it to relate to this idea?
- Some psalms contain phrases that sound hostile and even violent. What can we learn from our own discomfort with them?
- Psalm 150 invites "everything that has breath" to praise God and shout 'Hallelujah'. When do you find yourself praying to God in joyful thanksgiving?

CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for guiding us in our prayers and in our desire to be close to you. Whenever we pray the Psalms, help us to hear the promise of your presence with us at all times and in all ways. Bless us with your wisdom, and lead us always into caring community with others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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This month's resource was prepared by Deacon Sherry Coman.