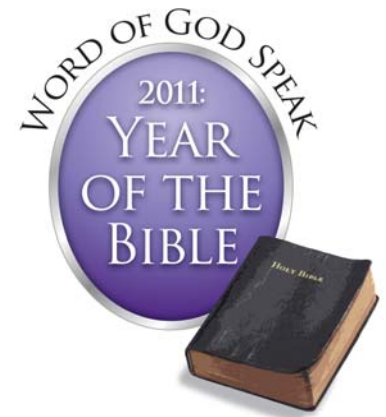


Week 32: Psalms 107-118

Study Guide for the week of August 8-14, 2011



Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, spend time with Psalm 107. This psalm describes six scenarios where people are in distress and the Lord brings them saving help (vss. 4-9; 10-16; 7-22; 23-32; 33-38; 39-42). Which of these comes closest to describe how the Lord has brought you saving help? Reflect and write out how the Lord has brought you saving help.

Discussion starters *If you are leading a small group, you may not have time for all of these questions. Pick the ones that will work best for your group.*

1. Ice Breaker Question: What is one of your favorite foods to eat? (Psalm 111:5a)
2. Was there something that jumped out at you, surprised you, encouraged you, or disturbed you from the readings this last week (or two)? Why?
3. Psalm 109 In response to being deeply hurt (vss. 1-5, 21-25), the psalmist explodes in an imprecatory song of hate (vss. 6-20). How do you react to this? Have you ever been this angry when someone has hurt you? Explain. What is the lesson here for how we are to “stand in the gap” for those who have suffered great oppression, hurt, alienation, and victimization?
4. Psalm 110:1 In New Testament times, Psalm 110 was understood as pointing to the coming of the Messiah. Jesus quotes verse 1 in Matthew 22:41-46 and alludes to it in Matthew 26:64. The New Testament teaches that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father. This is an essential Christian belief that we confess in the Apostles’ Creed. What does it mean to say that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father?
5. Psalm 111:10 – 112:1 What do you think is the connection between *fearing* the Lord and following/delighting in the commands of the Lord? In Psalm 112:2-6, read through the characteristics and experiences of the person who fears the Lord and delights in the His commands. Which one of these do you find most compelling? Why?
6. Psalm 113:7-8 As we have seen elsewhere in the Psalms, the heart of God is especially connected to the poor. You will find this truth supported through out the Bible. How does this understanding change your faith, your understanding of what it means to be a Christian, and your attitude towards the poor?
7. Psalm 115:1 How is a follower of the Lord to understand having pride?
8. Psalm 116:15 What meaning do you gain from this verse?
9. Psalm 118:8-9 Where are you tempted to trust in others more than the Lord?

Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 111:10a

Caring Time

It is important to make time in your group to care for each other. Sometimes that happens during the discussion and sometimes it is best to end your time together praying for each other. One possibility this week would be to pray for each other out of Psalm 118:8-9. Break into pairs. Using the answers you each gave to question #9 above, pray for each other pray to be able to face down the temptation to trust in others more than the Lord.

Also encourage people in the group to get together outside of the group time to foster deeper friendships with each other. Remember that being in a small group is primarily about sharing life together. It has been said that the most important time in small groups is the time people connect outside of the meeting time. Make plans now with your small group to enjoy an end of the summer event together.

