

The Gospel According to Psalms

Group Discussion Questions

Psalm 32

Psalm 32 is a powerful and reflective psalm of David that focuses on **confession, forgiveness, and the joy of being reconciled with God**. It's often categorized as a **penitential psalm**, like Psalm 51, expressing the blessings of forgiveness after repentance.

Read Psalm 32 aloud

Verses 1–2 The Blessing of Forgiveness

- What words are used to describe sin in verses 1–2?

Transgression - willful violation of a law, rebellion, transgression against an individual, nation or God Himself.

Sin - deliberate disobedience to the known will of God. A transgression of a religious or moral law.

Iniquity - crime, perversity, depravity

These are commonly known as “Sins of Commission” - **ACTIVELY** doing something wrong.

There are also “Sins of Omission” - **FAILURE** to do something that one knows is right or required.

Read James 4:17

- How many of us can say that we have fallen into this category? “Knowing the good we ought to do and not doing it?”
- Why is it important to understand the difference between sins of commission and sins of omission?

Verses 3–5 The Pain of Concealing Sin vs. the Relief of Confession

- How did David feel when he kept silent about his sin? What do you think he means by that?

- Have you ever experienced guilt or spiritual dryness from unconfessed sin? What was that like for you?
- What was David's first step in v. 5? Acknowledged his sin and uncovered it
- Why is it hard to acknowledge our sin and uncover it before the Lord?
- What changes when he confesses?

Read Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9

Examine the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32

- What does this tell us about God's character?
- What does this tell us about how He responds to acknowledgement and uncovering of sin before Him?
- Reflection question:(May have group prepared to write the answers down)
Is there one area of your life where you need to come clean before God? If so, what is keeping you from acknowledging and uncovering before the Lord?

Read Psalm 51:1-12 as a prayer over the group

Verses 6–7 The Security of God's Protection

- What do verses 6-7 say about the benefits of the forgiven person? What does he or she now receive?
 - Once forgiven, the believer enjoys **intimacy and security** with God.
 - God becomes a **place of refuge** instead of someone to hide from.

Read Psalm 91:1, Psalm 119:114, Psalm 27:5, Psalm 31:20

- What is comforting to you about these verses?

Verses 8–9 God's Instruction and Warning

Verse 8 is an amazing verse for us!

- What four things does God say He will do? (Instruct us. Teach us. Guide us. Keep His eye on us.)
- What is God's warning to us in verse 9? (The image of the horse or mule: don't be stubborn or unteachable.)

- When do you feel you are most stubborn or unteachable before the Lord?
- What role does accountability in the body help us to practice humble obedience to the Lord?
- In what ways can you be a source of grace and encouragement to others who feel burdened by guilt and shame?

Verses 10–11 The Contrast Between the Wicked and the Righteous

- Describe the contrast you see between the wicked and the righteous in verse 10

The wicked have many woes, but the righteous rejoice.

- Verse 11 closes with a list of three commands. What are they? Be glad in the Lord. Rejoice. Shout for joy.
- Dr. Tyler said, speaking of Psalm 29, that it is a command to sing to the Lord. How can we incorporate these commands into our daily lives?

The Gospel According to Psalms Group Discussion Questions Psalm 29

Opening Questions:

1. What is one highlight from your Bible reading this week?
2. Through experiences of life, along with your personal and public time of Bible study - what has the Lord been teaching you recently?
3. In light of Mother's Days, what is one thing the Lord taught you through your mother?

Bible Study:

4. Read **Psalm 29** aloud.

5. At first glance, what stands out to you?
6. 3 times in vss. 1 and 2 David uses the phrase, "*Ascribe to the Lord...*" What does it mean to *ascribe* something to someone?
7. How many times does David use the phrase, "*The voice of the Lord...*"? What do you think he is trying to convey by that phrase?
8. How does David describe the voice of the Lord? What does that reveal about God's character and power?
9. What is the significance of the "*voice of the Lord*" over the waters (vs. 3)? How does this relate to God's control over nature and the world?

Practical Application:

10. Either in thought, attitude, or action, what have you been ascribing to the Lord lately? Would you say that is an accurate ascription or attribution to Him?
11. How do we ensure that what we're ascribing to the Lord is both accurate and biblical?
12. How can we practically incorporate the practice of ascribing glory to God into our daily lives?
13. How do you know whether you're hearing the voice of the Lord, the voice of the enemy, or your own emotions?
14. How does Psalm 29 shape your understanding of the relationship between God and nature?
15. How does the call to worship in Psalm 29 influence our approach to both private and public worship?

Closing Prayer:

16. What is one thing you can apply from what we've discussed today?
 17. How can we pray for your personal application and growth in Christ this week?
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Group Discussion Questions

Psalm 8

Discussion Questions

- Please do not feel pressure to cover every reference or follow-up, but use them as needed for further discussion.

1. What does Psalm 8 reveal about God's majesty in relation to creation?
 - *Reference:* Psalm 19:1, Isaiah 40:26
 - *Follow-Up:* How does the psalmist connect the vastness of the heavens to God's glory?
2. Why do you think the psalmist is amazed that God is mindful of humans (v. 4)?
 - *Reference:* Job 7:17-18, Luke 12:6-7
 - *Follow-Up:* What does this say about human value and dignity from a biblical perspective?
3. What is the significance of God crowning humanity with "glory and honor" (v. 5)?
 - *Reference:* Genesis 1:26-28, 1 Peter 2:9
 - *Follow-Up:* How does this relate to human responsibility and stewardship?
4. How do verses 6–8 reflect humanity's role and responsibility in creation?
 - *Reference:* Genesis 1:28, Romans 8:19-22
 - *Follow-Up:* In what ways are we fulfilling—or failing to fulfill—this dominion today?
5. What role do children and infants play in this psalm, especially in verse 2?
 - *Reference:* Matthew 21:15-16 (Jesus quotes this verse), 1 Corinthians 1:27
 - *Follow-Up:* Why might God use the weak or seemingly insignificant to establish His strength?
6. What does this psalm teach us about the relationship between humility and dignity?
 - *Reference:* Philippians 2:5-11 (Christ's humility and exaltation)
 - *Follow-Up:* How can humans remain humble while also embracing the glory God has given?

7. How can the awe of creation lead us into deeper worship, as it did for the psalmist?
 - *Reference:* Romans 1:20, Nehemiah 9:6, Revelation 21:1-5
 - *Follow-Up:* Why do you think the beauty of creation should lead us to worship rather than just admiration or curiosity?
 8. How does the New Testament use Psalm 8 to point to Christ?
 - *Reference:* Hebrews 2:5-9, 1 Corinthians 15:27, Ephesians 1:22
 - *Follow-Up:* How does Jesus ultimately fulfill what humanity was spoken to be of in Psalm 8?
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The Gospel According to Psalms

Group Discussion Questions

Psalm 2

Opening Questions

1. How was your time in the Word this week? What is one highlight from this time?
2. What is one takeaway from our Easter week here at Lakewood (could be from sermon, Easter Week Bible Study, Easter Family Celebration, etc)?
3. How can we encourage you as a group this morning? How can we pray for you?

Discussion Questions

1. Who are the “nations” and “peoples” in v. 1? How does the psalmist David describe their intentions/actions toward the Lord?
2. What is the desire of the people and rulers who are against the Lord?
HINT: Ps. 2:3.
3. Notice that in v. 2, David writes, “He who sits in the heavens laughs”. What does this verse tell you about God’s response to those who rebel against him?
4. How does God’s reign compare with earthly rulers and governments?
5. In this passage, the Lord is identified with the Anointed (v. 2), King (v. 6), and Son (v. 7). What is promised to him? Who is this referring to?

a. *READ: Heb. 1:5*

6. How does the psalmist call us to respond to the coming reign of God through his King?
7. What is the result of those who seek freedom from the rule of God? How does this text warn us today about our own pursuit of freedom?
8. How should we approach this King, according to v. 10-11?
9. How does Psalm 2 encourage us when we encounter or hear about opposition to the Lord and his people?
 - a. *READ: Acts 4:23-31. This is a direct quote of Ps. 2 in the face of opposition in the early church.*
10. What are your initial thoughts when you hear the word “trembling”?
 - a. *READ: Phil. 2:12-13*
11. What are your initial thoughts when you hear the word “refuge”? How can we seek refuge in the Lord during seasons of suffering?
12. What other observations do you have from Ps. 2?

Takeaways

1. *There is only one king that reigns over the nations.* While there are many authorities/rulers in the world, the Son is the true King over all other earthly kingdoms and governments. There is no power that can overthrow the true King, and no leader that will not bow and answer to the Lord over heaven and earth.
2. *Rebelling against the reign of this king only leads to destruction, not freedom.* In our culture, freedom and individuality is often prized as one of the greatest virtues. However, freedom from God’s reign only leads to slavery to sin and eternal destruction.
3. *The only response to this king is joyful surrender.* The only path to life is found by taking refuge in the Son (v. 12) and obeying him (v. 11). However, this response should be joyful, knowing that he is a righteous and faithful King over his people.

Ending Questions

1. What is one takeaway from our discussion that has impacted you the most?
2. What is one measurable step of obedience that you want to take from our discussion this morning?

