

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read. Our Soul Food lessons are guided by "Opening Up The Psalms Commentary" written by Roger Ellsworth.*

### **Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – Psalms 14, 37, and 49**

This week begins our study of the Book of Psalms. As discussed on Sunday, the Psalms are divided into five books. Most scholars believe that the Psalms fall into one of nine categories, with several of the Psalms falling into more than one of the nine. Today we will look at some of the wisdom Psalms to glean the nuggets of wisdom found in each. Let's start with Psalm 14. As you read verses 1-4, what is the problem? Notice that you fall into this category. All humanity has fallen short. What happens when people live like there is no God for too long (vss. 5-6)? Verse 7 gives us the wisdom we need. Who can save us or turn things around? God can. What is the result (vs. 7)? Now read Psalm 37. As you read this Psalm, make a list of wicked behavior and its results and godly behavior and its results. After you make the list, you should better understand the summary of this Psalm in verses 37-40. We will find ourselves and behaviors on both the wicked and the godly list. Which should we work towards and why? What will change in your life because of this wisdom? Finally, turn to Psalm 49. Start with verses 1-14. What is the problem and what does it lead to? The hinge on which this Psalm turns is in verse 15. What difference does this verse make compared to what you have read thus far? What is the wisdom that comes from verse 15 (see vss. 16-20)? You have just read godly wisdom. Although thousands of years old, it is just as pertinent today. Where do you find yourself on the wicked side of things? Where do you see some godly behaviors? What pieces of wisdom do you need to incorporate? Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the blessings of his wisdom.

### **Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Psalms 53, 112**

Today we look at a couple more of the wisdom Psalms. Let's begin with Psalm 53. As you read, if you feel like you have read this before, you are right. This Psalm is almost identical to Psalm 14. If you have the instructions on the top of the Psalm, it should read something like "A Meditation on a Psalm of David." The only difference is in verse 5. (It is verses 5 and 6 in Psalm 14.) What is the wisdom/warning in this version? As you read verse 6, what is the good news? How does this good news tie into being Easter people? Now let's turn to Psalm 112. As you read this Psalm, what are the traits of those living godly lives? What do they do? What do they not do? How do you measure up to this wisdom, especially when things seem to not be going well? Best of all, what perk awaits those who develop this lifestyle (vs. 10)? The wisdom we see here is that those who live the do list and do not live the do not list frustrates everyone else, because they put their sole trust in God. Praise the Lord! Spend time this week seeking to live this out and see what happens in your life.

### **Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 119**

We complete the wisdom Psalms with the longest chapter of the entire Bible, Psalm 119. The focus of all 176 verses is found in verse 1. Each stanza of the song begins with a letter from Hebrew alphabet. It was one way to memorize this Psalm. This Psalm has two overarching themes for us to gain wisdom. The first theme that runs through this Psalm is “Why we should value the Word of God.” The second theme is “How we show we value the Word of God.” We should value it because of what God’s Word is (vss. 9, 24, 54, 103, 105, 130, 111, 14, 72, 127 and 162). We should value it also because of what God’s Word does (vss. 1-2, 9-11, 45, 105, 135). The way we are to demonstrate that we value the Word of God is by studying it, obeying it, storing it, declaring it and rejoicing over it. Give yourself the time this week to read through all of Psalm 119. You can start today reading the first 6 stanzas and read 6 stanzas each day until it is complete. What words of wisdom stir your heart to study and apply information to transformation each day?

### **Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 4, 11, 16, and 23**

Now we move to the confidence Psalms. Confidence comes when we apply godly wisdom to our lives and put the wisdom into practice. It means when life gets difficult, we have the tools to hang on tight to God, relying on the wisdom that God is our rock and salvation. Let’s start with Psalm 4. The meter of the song is 2 verses, 2 verses, 4 verses. In verses 1-2 and 3-4, what does the Psalmist know? Where is the Psalmist’s trust? As you read verses 5-8, see the benefits of having confidence in God. In Psalm 11, where does the Psalmist’s confidence lie (vs. 1)? Verses 2-3 tells you what the problem is and verses 4-7 explains why verse 1 exists. Have you ever felt this way? How can knowing God, His Word and living it out develop this kind of confidence in you? Now read Psalm 16. How do verses 1-3 demonstrate confidence in God? What happens when one is wicked and lacks confidence (vs. 4)? As you read verses 5-11, you get the sense that this Psalm (song) is in response to an undisclosed situation arising around the Psalmist. What does the Psalmist say in these verses to find his strength? When have you experienced God’s deliverance or help? How could you use those times as a reminder that God has your back too? To finish today, take time to read through Psalm 23. Imagine Jesus being your shepherd. Allow those words to wash over you and carry you through your day.

### **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Psalms 27, 62, 125 and 131**

We close this week by finishing the confidence Psalms. Take time today to read each Psalm (they all are short.) As you read each one, answer these questions: What common themes do you see spread through these Psalms? How does each Psalm demonstrate a confidence in God? What specific confidence does each Psalm demonstrate? What fear or concern is the confidence fighting off? How does wisdom illustrated in Psalm 119 help develop a deep and healthy confidence in God? After reading these Psalms and answering these questions, consider how your confidence in God has grown over the past several years. Consider where your confidence could actually use some shoring up. Pray that God use the things you face in life to develop a deeper and anchored confidence in God’s Holy Spirit working in you.

### **Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – *In preparation for tomorrow’s worship, please read Psalm 38.***

