

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to 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.

Monday, April 19th – Psalm 4

Our Spring Journey through the Bible as well as our Summer Journey will be reading through the Psalms of David. As discussed on Sunday, Psalms were songs that were sung to God as prayer, worship, remembrance, gratitude, and much more. As we go through these Psalms, it is important to remember real people like you and I wrote them for real situations they found themselves in. We can relate because we experience the same things. We will not be reading all the Psalms, in that we have already covered some while reading David's story and some are not written by David, but were written after David's time. So, for this part of the journey, let's read David's songs and see what we can learn about God, ourselves and how they point to Jesus. Let's start with today's Psalm and read it straight through out loud. We start by hearing David cry out to God – Answer me when I call you, O God who declares me innocent. That is a pretty bold statement to make to a Holy God, and yet, David is comfortable in his relationship with God to be that blunt. Then notice in verse 2 there is a shift in audience. Who is David speaking to and what does he ask and encourage (vss. 2-5)? Notice David gives them an option of what to do other than sin. Verse 3 tells us a lot about God. What is revealed to you about God when you face difficulties (situations or people)? David ends by stating what he has experienced despite what others may say. What do "many people" say (vs. 6)? What does David say (vss. 7-8)? Look over your last week or month. Are you like "many people" or do you have joy and sleep in peace like David? How does the work of Jesus supply us with the likes of verses 6 and 7?

Tuesday, April 20th – Psalm 5

Today we turn to Psalm 5, which speaks about God being our defender. David needed a defender for much of his life. God was the only one who could defend him, and David knew that. The fact that Psalms like this are so prevalent teaches us that even the great king David had a rough life, to the point of being hunted down. Again, read the psalm straight through, sensing the emotion leading us from idea to idea. Now let's go back and break this down a bit. What do verses 1-3 teach us about how our relationship with God should work? We cry out to God in honesty and then wait expectantly for God's answer. Now David is going to build a case for why God will answer. What do we learn about God in verses 4-6? We also learn what is troubling David, prompting verses 1-3. How is David (or any of us) able to enter the Temple to worship in awe? Notice it is the work of God in us that permits us to participate. Now back to the problem at hand. What does David share with God (vss. 9-10)? Have we not all been there? For example, someone talks behind our backs and tells lies about us. What does David ask God to do (vs. 10)? The enemies depicted in verses 9-10 can be compared to what David would call the righteous. What are the righteous like and what do they do and receive (vss. 11-12)? This is the response David is waiting on from God. To be shielded and protected so that he may rejoice and sing praises. What does this tell you about God? What does this tell you about humanity? How did Jesus experience what David did? How does Jesus (God in the flesh) respond to us in these times? Spend some time in prayer today and ask if you are in the camp of the righteous or that of the enemy towards others.

Wednesday, April 21st – Psalm 6

Have you ever been under attack so vehemently that you had no choice but to cry out to God for deliverance? Maybe you were being attacked verbally. Maybe your health was under attack and the pain became too much? Maybe you were being abused physically in some way? When we enter those times, this is a great Psalm to pray. Again, let's start by reading through the entire Psalm. Verses 1-7 are David's call for deliverance. What things does he call on God to do? Have you ever been that desperate? The Old Testament King Hezekiah in his song cries out using verse 5. Now we turn to verses 8-10. What is David's response to those from whom he seeks deliverance? Verse 10 tells us how David wants God to answer. What does he expect from his foes in verse 10? How do these things appear when we come face to face with God in the midst of our sin? If they turn back from their sin, where might they turn instead? How does their sin compare to God's holiness? How does our sin compare to God's holiness? How does Jesus make the turning back easier for us? Where might you need to turn back? Who is coming against you that you might need to pray about, that the presence of God in you turns them back?

Thursday, April 22nd – Psalm 8

It is good to know that not every Psalm is a downer. Today is a Psalm of praise and awe. Read through the entire Psalm. Are there any songs that pop into your head? This Psalm really stops and makes you think. Of all the amazing things God has created in the ever-expanding universe, who are we, simple humans, that God would care about us? And yet, look at the responsibility God gave us. How well have we fulfilled that responsibility? We probably have good days and bad days on that one. Majestic means to display or represent sovereign power, dignity, and grandeur. God's name gives us the majesty of God. And that majesty is found and displayed in all of creation, for all to see. No secrets here! It all points to the creator. Spend some time in prayer today, praising God and thanking Him for giving you the invitation to care for His creation. There was a lot revealed to us about God today, as well as about ourselves. Consider how the name of Jesus is majestic in all the earth today.

Friday, April 23rd – Psalm 9

We close this week with a reading of Psalm 9 in its entirety. This Psalm has 3 parts to it. Praise. Victory. Deliverance. Some scholars believe this psalm was written following a victory over the Philistines. The praise portion of this Psalm is found in verses 1-2 and 11-12. What does this praise consist of and for what does David and Jerusalem praise God? Next comes the victory verses, which are 3-10 and 19-20. What is the victory that God has won? How long will this victory last (vs. 7)? What is the battle cry of David to the Lord (vss 19-20)? What does this say about God? Verses 13-18 are a cry for deliverance. What is the deliverance David is asking for himself? What does David say about the other nations? How might these verses apply to our country today? Yet there is hope. What does David say about us whose hope is in the Lord (vs. 18)? How has Jesus secured this hope for us? Consider praising God today for a victory He has won for you. Don't forget to include the request for deliverance and what you were delivered from. This is not difficult to do and will strengthen your walk and relationship with God. It will also help us understand the holiness of God and our utter dependence upon him alone. If you write it down and would like to share it with Pastor Shirley, that would be great. Maybe we can come up with some new Psalms of praise, victory and deliverance to the Lord!

Saturday, April 24th For tomorrow, please read Psalm 11.