

## 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, July 19<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 88**

This week, all of our Psalms will be written by authors other than David. Today's Psalm is written by Heman, the Ezrahite from the tribe of Korah. Pastor Shirley talked about this yesterday. Psalm 88's theme is that God understands our deepest misery while we are going through it. Let's start by reading through the Psalm. To get a glimpse of the depth of the misery, how bad is it (vs. 18)? It is pretty bad when darkness is your closest friend. That is some serious depression. What is the basis of the Psalmist cry to God? What does he believe is the cause of his troubles and misery (vss. 1-7)? After a break (interlude) the psalmist continues. What does he claim that God has done and what four questions does the psalmist ask (vss. 8-12)? Moving to verses 13-17, we see the plea to God again to stop rejecting him. What declarations are used to defend his right for such a request (vss. 13-17)? What does this Psalm reveal to you about God? What does it reveal about us and especially in times of misery and overwhelmed with troubles? How does this Psalm point to or reveal about Jesus? Consider the four questions asked in verses 8-12. If you are in misery and troubles are overwhelming you, how can this become your prayer today to God? Considering Jesus, how is it comforting to know that Jesus understands your suffering and misery first hand?

### **Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 89**

Our psalm today is written by another Ezrahite, Ethan. This Psalm is a recap and reminder of God's covenant with David. This Psalm is on the longer side. Let's take a moment here and read through it and then come back. What descriptions of God does the psalmist give in verses 1-2 as the foundation for the remainder of the Psalm? As we move to verses 3-4, we see that the psalmist recites the Davidic covenant. Verses 5-18 provide praises for the list of things God has done. On a piece of paper, write down the highlights of the psalmist's list. This is a pretty extensive list, is it not? Moving on to verses 19-30, we see a recap of the relationship between David and God. What is included in this description? While all of this is pretty positive, we see a warning come into play. What is the warning (vss. 31-32)? Even if they are disobedient, what will never stop (vss. 33-37)? Now up until now, this has been a wonderful and praise-filled psalm, but at verse 38, we see a change in direction. What is happening (vss. 38-45)? Beginning in verse 46, the psalmist asks some pertinent questions, especially in light of all that was said in verses 1-37. What questions does the psalmist ask (verses 46-49)? What have the psalmist and the king experienced (vss. 50-51)? Notice how the psalm ends though (vs. 52)? Why do you think it ends with praise after everything that was poured on in verses 38-51? What does this reveal to you about God? Consider all the things listed between verses 1-37. What does it reveal about us? Consider our ability to ask the difficult questions of God in humility. How does this Psalm point to Jesus or reveal Jesus (vs. 29)? What would you like to praise God for today? Do so in the form of a doxology.

### **Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> – Psalm 50**

Psalm 50's author is Asaph. David appointed him as the chief musician in Jerusalem. This Psalm is a contrast between true faith and false faith, as well as a reminder of what God really wants. Take a moment here and read through this Psalm. Verses 1-6 are a description of God calling judgment day on those living on earth. Who is the judge and who is the jury (vss. 1-6)? When reading this scene, does it spark some fear in you? In verses 7-15 and 23, we see God's first defendants, the faithful. What is the charge against them (vs. 7)? Now remember we are talking about the faithful. In verses 8-13, what is the complaint against them? What is God's point? What would God rather have (vs. 14)? If they make this correction, what can they depend on (vs. 14)? Consider that ritual without relationship misses the mark. And relationship without ritual also misses the mark. How does verse 23 reiterate this point? Next up are the wicked. What makes them wicked in God's judgment (vss. 16-21)? What does God tell them to do? If they don't, what will happen (vs. 22)? How is verse 23 for the wicked a gift of guidance for the future? What does this reveal about God? Consider what God says in verse 21. God may be silent to sin for a while, but not forever! What does this reveal about us? Are you tied to ritual with no relationship with God? Are you all about relationship with no ritual? Consider where each of these paths lead, if we follow them to the end. Which path did Jesus follow? How does Jesus demonstrate ritual and relationship? Let's be like Jesus.

### **Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Psalm 73**

Psalm 73 is another of Asaph's psalms. This is a psalm we can all relate to because we have all been there. Read through the Psalm and then come back to the devotion. Okay, what is the issue at hand (vss. 1-3)? What observations had the psalmist made (vss. 4-12)? Have you ever looked at someone and thought the same things? Have you ever asked the questions in verses 13-14? How do we know the psalmist knows this is wrong (vs. 15)? Yet we see in verse 16, he is trying to figure it out. So how does it get "figured out" and what is discovered about the truth of all this (vss. 17-20)? But there is one more discovery, a personal discovery. What does the psalmist discover about himself and what realizations does he come to (vss. 21-26)? Verses 27-28 are a summary of what the psalmist learned. What is the final lesson we should take from this? What does this reveal about God? Is He oblivious to what is going on? What does this reveal about us as humanity? How easy it is to get on this slippery slope. How does learning contentment work in this psalm? How does it point to the answer to the question "Is God enough?" How does this point to and reveal Jesus? How did Jesus live out this Psalm? How did he teach this concept (Good Samaritan; Woman at the well.)

### **Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Psalm 74**

We close this week out with another psalm written by Asaph. This psalm is a cry to God to remember his promises and to help defend His cause. Let's start off by reading through the Psalm. Verses 1-11 lay out the problem that Israel is facing. What is it? It doesn't look good, does it? But as we arrive at verse 12, we see a shift in the dialogue. How is God described in verse 12? Make a list of the mighty acts of God found in verses 13-17. Now based on the points listed about God, the psalmist returns to his conversation with God. What does he ask of God in verses 18-23? The questions are formed from the fact of who God is, so why let your enemies say those things about you? What does this Psalm reveal to you about God? What does this Psalm reveal to you about who we as humans are and how we act? How has Jesus completed the great work of God? Spend some time today in prayer, thanking God for always being there, even when we may not "feel" his presence. Remind yourself, God sees and will deal with the matter in his time and in his way.

### **Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> – For tomorrow, please read Psalm 78.**