

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 124**

This week we start off with one of the ascending Psalms. These were songs sung by Jews for centuries as they ascended the mount upon which the Temple sat when they arrived for Passover. Jesus would have sung these songs. Now while this psalm is part of the ascending psalms, it is believed that David wrote this Psalm after he defeated the Philistines (2 Samuel 5:17-25). It is worth rereading that text and then reading this Psalm and coming back for the devotional. Now that you have read both texts, what question does David ask in verses 1-2? According to David, what would have happened if the Lord had not been there (vss. 3-5)? Do you see where this could have been the case from the 2 Samuel text? But the Lord was there. How does David end this Psalm (vss. 6-8)? What do these texts reveal to about God? What do they reveal about humanity? Are we enough on our own? When have you felt trapped, but God saved you? How does this point to Jesus? In the end it looked like verses 3-5 came to pass for Jesus? And then verses 6-8 give us a lovely picture of the resurrection. Spend some time today praising God for being on your side.

### **Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 131**

This Psalm is also an ascending Psalm. It describes from where contentment comes. Take a moment and read through the Psalm. What is the status of David's physical being (vs. 1)? Rather, how does David describe his current condition (vs. 2)? When you are calm and quieted, you are content, no matter what is happening around you. Finally, what does David tell Israel to do (vs. 3)? Consider what David is saying in verses 1-2. What does this ability to be calm and quiet reveal to you about God? Now take a moment to consider if you are in the weaning process (agitated and whiny too often) or if you have been weaned and don't need everything right now. What does this reveal about us as God's children? Once again, consider how Jesus lived this out. When put on trial, he calmed and quieted himself. He did not go on the attack. Where did Jesus' hope lie? Was he disappointed? Today, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you to calm and quiet yourself in the midst of the storms you face.

### **Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 133**

Today is another ascending Psalm of David. Let's stop and read through the Psalm. Have you ever been at a family outing or with friends where everyone just got along and had a great time? That is what David is writing about in this Psalm – a life lived in harmony with others. How does David describe it (vs. 1)? What metaphor does David use to explain harmony (vs. 2)? What do you think David means by using this metaphor to describe harmony? Consider that oil is what is used to anoint folks by God. Could harmony start between God and his people? What is the other metaphor used in verse 3? Have you ever felt how refreshing dew is on a hot, humid morning in Florida? Could that be what living in harmony does for the soul? And what does David say happened when harmony has fallen into place (vs. 3b)? What is included in this blessing? What does this reveal to you about God? What does this reveal to you about humanity? Consider that living in harmony with others is possible. Look over the past few months. Are you living as one who seek harmony or have you been stirring the pot? Pray asking God to give you a spirit and desire to live in harmony with others starting today.

### **Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 138**

We now leave the ascending Psalms and today we will read a Psalm of Thanksgiving by David. This will be the last Psalm of David's we look at and it is appropriate that it is a psalm of thanksgiving to God. Go ahead and read through the Psalm and then come back to the devotion. Read verses 1-3 again. In what ways does David give thanks to God (vss. 1-2a)? Why does David give thanks (vss. 2b-3)? As we move to verse 4, we see a shift from just David giving praise. Who is not included and why would they give thanks (vs. 4-6)? Verses 7-8 give us the reason for David's thanksgiving, even though it is not what he is thankful for. But what does David know God will do for him that allows David to be thankful amid troubles (vss. 7-8)? What does this reveal to you about God (vs. 8 specifically)? What does this reveal about you? Do you give thanks to God amid your troubles? Do you sense God's unfailing love and faithfulness in the midst of your troubles? If not, why not? Finally, how does this reveal or point to Jesus? Consider how Jesus fulfilled verses 6-8. Consider how he was strengthened when exhausted and always gave praise and thanksgiving to his Father in heaven. Let us learn to be like Jesus and David in this way.

### **Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> – Psalm 130**

Today, as we end the week, we move from David's Psalms to other authors. Psalm 130 is listed as "anonymous," though some scholars believe Hezekiah may have written this. Hezekiah was several generations after David, and we will read about him next year. This Psalm acknowledges our sinfulness and assurance of God's forgiveness for those who confess and repent of their sins. Take a moment to read through the Psalm. David starts by crying out to God. Where has sin placed David? Where does he cry out from (vs. 1)? What does he ask God to do (vs. 2)? What is David keenly aware of in this psalm (vs. 3)? Yet even from the depths of despair, what does David know (vs. 4)? It is because of verse 4 that David can make the declarations in verses 5-6. What does David profess? Up to this point it has been David's personal experience. How does it shift in verse 7? Why should Israel hope in the LORD (vs. 8)? What does this reveal to you about God? What does this reveal to you about humanity, us personally and collectively (vs. 3)? How does this point to Jesus (vs. 8)? What sins do you need to confess and receive forgiveness for this week? Spend some time in confession allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you to what you need to confess.

### **Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> – For tomorrow, please read Psalm 143.**