

## THE MINI STUDIES

### ~A MONTH IN PSALMS 1-30~

These mini studies are designed to keep you in the Word by building daily habits studying the Bible *and* by helping you grow in your Bible study skills of observation, interpretation, and application. I have purposely kept these studies short, limiting the questions, but you can bless your own spiritual socks by adding your own observations about the psalm. You can train yourself to ask and then answer questions like “*What situation does the psalmist find himself in?*” “*What does the psalmist ask of God?*” “*What does the psalmist know about God?*” “*How does God help the psalmist?*”

Please note that these mini studies *primarily* and *purposely* focus on what you can *observe* in the text itself. Of course, your understanding would be greatly aided if I added cross references to provide insight into what the psalm writer is expressing. The use of cross references is a valuable Bible study tool and is one of many tools I employ in my longer Bible studies. Yet taking the time to do this kind of systematizing of what the Bible teaches on a subject would defeat the purpose of these daily, mini lessons. For now, please use these mini studies as a way hone your observation Bible study skills by simply looking at text itself.

To deepen your study time as you read through each psalm, or *any* portion of Scripture, learn to ask: “*What can I learn about God’s character from this Psalm or portion of Scripture?*” “*What truths transcend time and culture that I can apply to my own life?*” “*Are there any attitudes in my own heart that need changed?*” “*What truths can be in my mind and heart throughout the day?*”

Ready to get started?

1. Day 1. *Read Psalm 1.*
  - a. What kinds of people are being compared in this Psalm?
  - b. How does each group act?
  - c. What are the results?
  - d. What are some truths you can apply to your own life from this psalm?

2. Day 2. *Read Psalm 2.*

- a. What do you learn about the “nations” in this psalm?
- b. What do you learn about God in this psalm?
- c. What do you learn about God’s Son in this psalm?
- d. What commands are given that you can obey today?
- e. What blessing is given?

3. Day 3. *Read Psalm 3.*

- a. How does David feel about his situation in verses 1-2?
- b. What truths about God does David focus on that comfort him in verses 3-4?
- c. After David thinks on what is true, what is the result (verses 5-6)?
- d. How did David view his circumstances after that (verses 7-8)?
- e. From what you’ve learned in this psalm, what are some specific truths you can apply to your life that will comfort you when you are distressed?

4. Day 4. *Read Psalm 4.*

- a. What has David seen God do in the past (verse 1)?
- b. What situation is David facing in verse 2?
- c. What truths comfort David in verse 3?
- d. How does David counsel himself to respond in his trial (verses 4-5)?
- e. How does David rejoice at God's help (verses 6-8)?

5. Day 5. *Read Psalm 5.*

- a. What does David ask God to do in verses 1-3?
- b. What truths about God's character do you discover in verses 4-7?
- c. Why does David ask God to make his way straight in verse 8?
- d. Record what you learn about the character of God, the wicked, and the righteous.

6. Day 6. *Read Psalm 6.*

- a. What things does David ask of the Lord in verses 1-5?

- b. How does David describe his situation in verses 6-7?
- c. What comfort does David gain after he talks to the Lord (verse 9)?
- d. What truths about God can you glean as you look at this psalm?
- e. How does understanding that God is always ready to hear you encourage you when you are discouraged?

7. Day 7. *Read Psalm 7.*

- a. David points out certain actions and attitudes to maintain his integrity before the Lord. What do you notice from verses 1-5?
- b. Which of God's character qualities does David appeal to in his prayer for vindication and help in verses 6-11?
- c. What will happen to the wicked, to those who will not repent of their evil deeds (see verses 12-16)?
- d. How can this psalm motivate you to pray for the lost and to share the gospel message with them—that God will judge all those who do not place their hope in Jesus Christ for rescue from their sins?

8. Day 8. *Read Psalm 8.*

- a. What character qualities about God are seen in this psalm?

- b. How does reflecting upon God's creation move David to praise?
  - c. What do you learn about man, his place in creation, and his purpose from this psalm?
  - d. What is your own response as you think on God's care in ordering creation?
9. Day 9. *Read Psalm 9.*
- a. What does David do in verses 1-2?
  - b. What did God do for David that elicited such praise (verses 3-6)?
  - c. What truths about God encourage David in verses 7-10?
  - d. What final truths about God does David review in verses 11-20?
  - e. How does focusing on God's righteous judgment strengthen your heart and build hope?
10. Day 10. *Read Psalm 10.*
- a. What does the psalmist ask of God in verse 1?
  - b. What is his solution to his plight? See verse 2.

- c. What do you learn about the wicked in verses 3-11?
  - d. What false assumption do the wicked make that makes them think they can get away with their sins? See verse 13.
  - e. How does the psalmist comfort himself in verses 12-18? What specific characteristics about God in these verses comfort your heart today?
11. Day 11. *Read Psalm 11.*
- a. What is the plight of the psalmist in verses 1-2?
  - b. What question does the psalmist ask in verse 3?
  - c. The answer to the psalmist's question in verse 3 is found in the next verses. Based on what you learn about God from verses 4-7, *what can the righteous do?*
  - d. In this psalm, what truths about God can strengthen your heart when you find the normal foundations of life crumbling?
12. Day 12. *Read Psalm 12.*
- a. David finds himself in an alarming situation. What is it according to verse 1?
  - b. What are the attitudes and actions of the wicked in verses 3-4?

- c. Though the wicked speak and act against God's children, what does God do according to verse 5?
  - d. In contrast to the words of the wicked, what do we learn about God's words in verses 6-7?
  - e. How is God's faithfulness a comfort even when *the wicked strut and prowl and vileness is exalted*?
13. Day 13. *Read Psalm 13.*
- a. What is David fearful of happening according to verses 1-2?
  - b. What does David ask the Lord to do for him as he surveys his circumstances in verses 3-4?
  - c. In spite of his fears that God has forgotten him, what does David remind himself about God in verses 5-6?
  - d. How can those truths about God help guard your heart when you find yourself in a fearful or difficult situation? As you remember those truths about God, what will happen in your heart? See verses 5-6.
14. Day 14. *Read Psalm 14.*
- a. What do you learn about the Fool in this psalm?

- b. Because the Fool does not seek the Lord, what is the result in their life? See verse the first part of verse 5. Why do they feel that way? See the second part of verse 5.
  - c. What do you learn about those who trust in the Lord in this psalm?
  - d. How can this picture of foolish unbelief help you navigate your relationships with those who don't seek the Lord?
15. Day 15. *Read Psalm 15.*
- a. In this psalm, list the characteristics of those who love God and desire to fellowship with Him.
  - b. In this psalm David paints a picture of the person who desires to draw near to God. If you “abide” or “live” in God’s tent, what kind of person do you need to be?
  - c. What actions or attitudes of those who fear God stands out to you as interesting, convicting, or encouraging?
  - d. When a person is motivated by love and honor for the Lord and desires to live God’s way in every area of their life, what is the end result according to the last part of verse 5?
16. Day 16. *Read Psalm 16.*
- a. What statements of trust and hope open this psalm? See verses 1-2.



- b. Though the psalmist looks only to God for help and his soul's comfort, he does rejoice in something else. What is it according to verse 3? In contrast to those who make the Lord their refuge, what do you see others doing in verse 4?
  - c. How does David feel about his life in verses 5-6?
  - d. What does God do for David in verse 7?
  - e. What is the result of David's hope and trust in the Lord according to verses 8-9?
  - f. What truths give David hope in verses 10-11?
17. Day 17. *Read Psalm 17.*
- a. David begins this psalm with a plea. What is David asking of the Lord from verses 1-5?
  - b. What clues do you discover in verses 6-7 that give David the assurance and confidence to plead his case before the Lord?
  - c. What does David desire God do for him in verse 8?
  - d. Why does David make this specific request from the Lord? See verses 9-12.
  - e. List everything you learn about David's enemies from verses 13-14.

- f. In contrast to that worldly focus, what is the desire of David's heart (verse 15)?  
What are some ways you can apply this verse to your life today?

18. Day 18. *Read Psalm 18.*

- a. What truths about God's character spring from David's heart in verses 1-3?
- b. How does David describe his situation in verses 4-5?
- c. In answer to his cry for God's help, how does David describe God coming to his aid in verses 6-17?
- d. From verses 17-36, list the many aspects of God's character, care, and help that David recounted.
- e. In verses 37-50 what did God do for David? Then note what David was able to do while relying on the Lord's strength (verses 37-50).
- f. In response to God's help, how should we respond according to verse 49?
- g. What aspects of God's character encouraged you in this psalm?

19. Day 19. *Read Psalm 19.*

- a. In this psalm, David marvels at the ways God communicates with man. What does creation tell us according to verse 1?

- b. What are some of the “silent” ways creation tells us about God from verses 2-6?
  - c. What is another way that God communicates with man according to verses 7-9?
  - d. List how the Word of God is described in verses 7-11. *God’s Word is ...*
  - e. Now list what God’s Word *does* according to verses 7-11.
  - f. After describing God’s Word and how it affects us, David is struck with his own sinfulness. How does he describe this sense of not measuring up to God’s holy standard in verses 12-13?
  - g. What is the desire of David’s heart after spending time thinking on God’s Word? See verse 14. How can you apply this psalm in your life today?
20. Day 20. *Read Psalm 20.*
- a. As David prays for victory, what is the focus of each of his petitions from verses 1-5?
  - b. What is David very sure about according to verse 6?
  - c. David’s assurance prompts him to consider two different groups and where they place their trust. What do you notice about them in verse 7? What are some modern-day things you might trust in that are the equivalent of “chariots” and “horses”?

- d. The different places we put our trust results in two different results in verse 8. What do you learn?
  - e. What final petition is placed before the Lord in verse 9?
  - f. Take some time to pray about your concerns using Psalm 20 as a template.
21. Day 21. *Read Psalm 21.*
- a. In Psalm 21:1, what aspects of God's character bring joy to David's heart?
  - b. What does David recall to mind about the many ways the Lord has blessed him in verses 2-6?
  - c. What does David proclaim in verse 7?
  - d. Because David hopes in the Lord, what does he foresee happening with his enemies according to verses 8-12?
  - e. What final praise does David include about the Lord in verse 13?
  - f. What aspects of this psalm encourage you today?
22. Day 22. *Read Psalm 22.*
- a. Describe David's mental and emotional state from verses 1-2.

- b. What truths does the David focus on despite his despair? See verses 3-5.
  - c. In verses 6-8 we learn why the psalmist is so discouraged. What is going on in his life? Once again, the psalmist chooses faith and truth over his emotions. What does he focus on in verses 9-10?
  - d. What does the psalmist ask of God in verse 11? What new details do you learn about his circumstances in verses 12-18?
  - e. What does David ask of the Lord in verses 19-21?
  - f. After bringing his distresses to the Lord and reflecting on God's character, how does the psalmist respond in verses 22-31? Again, what truths about God undergird his newfound hope from verses 22-31?
  - g. How can this model of prayer and reflecting on God's character help you when you find yourself similarly discouraged?
23. Day 23. *Read Psalm 23.*
- a. This familiar psalm has rich and precious treasures for us! What truth about God begins this psalm? See verse 1. What is the result (verse 1)?
  - b. What else does the Lord do for His children according to verses 2-3? What reason is given for the Lord's faithfulness to us according to the end of verse 3?
  - c. How are we benefited by the Lord's kind deeds (verses 2-3)?

- d. What dire and distressing situations are described in verses 4 and 5?
  - e. What encourages David despite his circumstances in verses 4-6?
  - f. Go through the psalm now and list all the results that come from the Lord being *your* shepherd. For example: 1. With the Lord as my shepherd, I lack nothing that is good for me. 2. With the Lord as my shepherd, He provides a place of safety and rest for me. 3. And so on...
24. Day 24. *Read Psalm 24.*
- a. What truth about God's character brings praise, comfort, and hope to David according to verses 1-2?
  - b. What do you learn about the kind of worship God desires from verses 3-6?
  - c. What do you learn about God from verses 7-10?
  - d. What kinds of attitudes characterize David's worship of the Lord in this psalm? How can you have those same attitudes be part of your worship of the Lord?
25. Day 25. *Read Psalm 25.*
- a. What truths about God strengthen David from verses 1-3?
  - b. What does David ask of the Lord in verses 4-7?

- c. What does God do for those who love Him according to verses 8-11?
- d. What does God do for those who fear Him according to verses 12-15?
- e. What does David ask of the Lord in verses 16-22?
- f. What truths about the Lord stand out to you from this psalm? How do they encourage you to trust the Lord more?

26. Day 26. *Read Psalm 26.*

- a. As David comes to the Lord in worship, what does he ask of the Lord in verses 1-3?
- b. What are some things David points out to the Lord as “proof” that he desires to walk rightly before the Lord? See verses 4-6.
- c. What is his motivation for living in this way according to verse 7?
- d. What are David’s most heartfelt desires according to verses 8-12?
- e. This psalm gives you a great place to start in considering your own heart motivations in serving the Lord. Just like David, take some time to list some of your own motivations in drawing near to the Lord.
- f. What things about God do you love? How do they motivate you to live distinctly different than the world?

27. Day 27. Read Psalm 27.

- a. What distressing situation does David find himself in according to verses 1-3?
- b. What truths about God's character help David not to fear according to verse 1? How do those truths frame David's response to his fearful circumstances according to verses 1-3?
- c. With his heart firmly focused on the Lord, what does David desire God do for him according to verses 4-6?
- d. David's desire for the Lord continues to be seen in verses 7-10. What does he long for? What is he afraid might happen?
- e. What does David ask of the Lord in verses 11-12?
- f. What helps David not to despair in his circumstances according to verse 13?
- g. With that truth about God steadfastly anchored in his heart, how does David counsel himself to respond in verse 14?
- h. How do the truths about God in this psalm help you stand firm in fearful circumstances?

28. Day 28. Read Psalm 28.

- a. What does David ask of the Lord in verses 1-2?



- b. In contrast to David's humble cries for help to the Lord, what do you learn about the "wicked" from verses 3-5?
  - c. What causes David to praise the Lord in verses 6-9?
  - d. What specific attributes about God strengthen David's heart in verses 6-9?
  - e. What truths from this psalm encourage you to go to the Lord with your burdens?
29. Day 29. Read Psalm 29.
- a. What are you to ascribe or give to the Lord according to verses 1-2?
  - b. What do you learn about the Lord's voice in verses 3-9?
  - c. What picture of God does the psalmist want to create by his descriptions in verses 3-9?
  - d. Another picture of God is described in verse 10. What situation is described and what do you learn about God from verse 10?
  - e. What does God do for His people according to verse 11? How able is God to make that happen based on what you've learned about Him in verses 1-10?

30. Day 30. Read Psalm 30.

- a. What has God done for David that causes him to praise the Lord according to verses 1-3?
- b. As David reflects on the Lord's work in his life, what is he moved to do in verse 4?
- c. Though David has many trials, what truths about God does he reflect upon in verse 5? How can those same truths about God encourage you today?
- d. What self-sufficient attitude does David confess in verse 6? What is the truth about David's position according to verse 7?
- e. Whenever we realize we are seeking security in anything other than God, we need to do like David did in verses 8-9. What did he do?
- f. What does David ask of the Lord in verse 10? And as the Lord works in his heart, what is the result? See verses 11-12.
- g. What truths did you discover in this psalm that you want to keep with you today?

What is more pleasing than a psalm?

A psalm is a blessing on the lips of the people, praise of God, the assembly's homage, a general acclamation, a word that speaks for all, the voice of the Church, a confession of faith in song. ~Ambrose