

THE MINI STUDIES

~A MONTH IN PSALMS 61-89~

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. Without a doubt, 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. 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 61.*
 - a. What does David ask of the Lord in verses 1-4?
 - b. What truths about God give David comfort in his distress (verses 1-4)?
 - c. David also finds comfort in God’s faithfulness to keep His covenant promises to David and his descendants. What things does David call to mind in verses 5-7?

- d. What is the final result of David's intentional thinking about God's character and His promises? See verse 8.
- e. What pattern for counseling yourself do you see in this psalm that you can apply whenever you are in distress?

2. Day 2. *Read Psalm 62.*

- a. List as many observations as you can about David's waiting from verses 1-2.
- b. Verses 3-4 detail why David is in need of deliverance. What do you learn about his situation?
- c. David then repeats his soul counsel in verses 5-8. What further observations can you make about how to find comfort in distress from verses 5-8?
- d. David's trust in the Lord helps him assess what's happening around him. What truths does he remind himself about the world according to verses 9-10?
- e. David closes the psalm with some final truths about God. What does he focus on according to verses 11-12?

3. Day 3. *Read Psalm 63.*

- a. Describe David's deepest heart desires according to verses 1-2.
- b. What truth about God does David rejoice in according to verse 3? How does that single thing about God affect his life as seen in verses 3-5?

- c. When David is resting or awake in the night, where do his thoughts go and why according to verses 6-8?

 - d. David's many trials propel him to the Lord for help and strength. What does he understand about the fate of those who don't trust the Lord and rebel against Him according to verses 9-11?

 - e. Consider your own deepest heart longings today? Are they echoed in these verses, or do you realize your heart longs for things other than the Lord? Take some time to talk to the Lord about this psalm and the state of your heart.
4. Day 4. *Read Psalm 64.*
- a. What do you learn about David's enemies from verses 1-6?

 - b. Because of the trials and difficulties he's experiencing at the hands of his enemies, what does David ask the Lord to do for him according to verses 1-2?

 - c. Though the wicked think they can get away with their plans and plots, what is the truth about their situation as seen in verses 7-8?

 - d. All sin has consequences, and we see it laid out here in verses 7-8. What can *all* men learn as a result of God's sovereign working in mankind? See verse 9.

 - e. When you consider and ponder God's works so that it produces a proper understanding of life's circumstances, what is the result in your life? See verses 9-10.

5. Day 5. Read Psalm 65.

- a. What observations can you make about man before God from verses 1-4?
- b. If you didn't already do it, consider what you learn about what happens to the one who confesses and repents of sin according to verses 3-4?
- c. The next section contains description after description of God's works. As you look at verses 5-13, list the many aspects of God's character you see on display. For example, verse 7 says that God "stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of the waves, and the tumult of the peoples" so from verse 7 you can see that God is powerful, sovereign over all creation, and brings order out of chaos.
- d. After looking over the list you just created, now take the time to pray through it as you read verse 4 again, "How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You to dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple." How can understanding God better help you find more soul satisfaction in the Lord?

6. Day 6. Read Psalm 66.

- a. What do you learn about worshiping the Lord from verses 1-4?
- b. What do you learn about God's works according to verses 5-7?
- c. List all the praiseworthy ways the Lord ministers to His children according to verses 8-15.
- d. What details about the psalmist and his relationship with the Lord are revealed in verses 16-20?

- e. Take some time to consider what the Lord has done for your soul (verse 16) and list them here.

- f. What truths about prayer do you learn from verses 16-20?

7. Day 7. *Read Psalm 67.*

- a. This is a psalm about blessing. What blessing does the psalmist ask from the Lord according to verse 1?

- b. When God's blessing is upon a nation or a people, what is the result according to verse 2?

- c. As a result of God's blessing, what are we urged to do in verses 3-5?

- d. Another aspect of God's blessing is seen in verse 6. What do you learn?

- e. Why does God bless us? See verse 7. In what ways has God's mercy and blessing in your life produced that same result?

8. Day 8. *Read Psalm 68.*

- a. What does David desire for the Lord to be worshiped as He deserves? See verses 1-4.

- b. David extols more of God's nature and works to prompt you to praise and worship the Lord. Summarize what you learn about the Lord from verses 5-18.

- c. Spend some time listing as many observations as you can from verses 19-20. Then be sure to take some time praising and praying about the things you've seen.
 - d. How is God depicted in verses 21-31? How does that information naturally flow from the truths you learned in verses 19-20?
 - e. According to verses 32-35, what are you to do and why? Take some time to praise the Lord for His might and deliverance, just as this psalm instructs.
9. Day 9. *Read Psalm 69.*
- a. What is the scenario in verses 1-4?
 - b. David is very aware of his own weakness and sin. What does he talk to the Lord about in verses 5-6, considering his distresses as described in verses 1-4?
 - c. David's prayer in verses 5-6 makes all the more sense when you reflect on the pattern of his life. What do you learn about how he's lived his life from verses 7-12?
 - d. In verses 13-19, what does David ask of the Lord? What truths about God does he cling to?
 - e. Though David has walked in integrity and sought to honor the Lord in all things, what situation does he find himself in according to verses 20-28?
 - f. In spite of his sorrows, what does David desire to do and why? See verses 29-36. How can this psalm be a guide to you when you find yourself in similar trials?

10. Day 10. *Read Psalm 70.*

- a. Describe David's prayer from verse 1. How is that prayer pleasing to God?
- b. What does David ask from the Lord in his distress? See verses 2-3.
- c. What else does David desire of the Lord as seen in verse 4?
- d. Even in his desire to see God honored and lifted up, David still needs the Lord's help. What does he ask in verse 5?
- e. What does this psalm teach you about depending on the Lord in your life?

11. Day 11. *Read Psalm 71.*

- a. What testimony does the psalmist proclaim about his life and his God from verses 1-6?
- b. In verses 7-16, what is the psalmist's status? Then, from those same verses, consider what the psalmist fears and asks God to do for him?
- c. The psalmist continues to testify of the Lord's faithfulness in his life. What truths about God does he recall as he looks back on his life in verses 17-21?
- d. Verses 22-24 are the natural result of a mind set on the Lord. List what you observe about that Godward focus from verses 22-24.

- e. What elements of faithfully walking with God for a lifetime do you see in this psalm? What are some ways you can implement those same things in your life?

12. Day 12. *Read Psalm 72.*

- a. In this psalm, what does young King Solomon ask of the Lord according to verses 1-4?
- b. He continues with that same line of thinking in verses 5-11. Summarize what he desires from the Lord as he considers leading God's people.
- c. What are some distinctives of Solomon's reign that he hopes to implement according to verses 12-15?
- d. What final blessing from God does Solomon request of the Lord in verses 16-17?
- e. What praise does Solomon have for God in verses 18-19? How can that final blessing be yours today?

13. Day 13. *Read Psalm 73.*

- a. What declaration does the psalmist begin with according to verse 1?
- b. Though the psalmist knew and understood the truths of verse 1, what happened to him according to verses 2-14? If you haven't already done so, consider *why* he struggled in this way (verses 2-14)?

- c. Though he realized the error of this way of thinking, he didn't move from it until he remembered the truth. What truths helped change his thinking according to verses 15-20?

- d. What did the psalmist recognize about himself from verses 21-22? Yet, what did he also understand about God according to verses 23-24?

- e. What determinations of faith and hope does he make in verses 25-28? What truths from this psalm encourage and strengthen you today?

14. Day 14. *Read Psalm 74.*

- a. God always deals with His children in right and loving ways, yet it can often feel quite the opposite for us. What is the situation for the psalmist according to verses 1-2?

- b. What things does he point out to God that make him feel that separated from God's favor? See verses 3-11.

- c. In spite of how he feels, what truths does the psalmist recall to mind in verses 12-17?

- d. What do you learn about the enemies of God from verses 18-23?

- e. As one who feels at the mercy of those who reject God, what does the psalmist ask of the Lord in verses 19-21?

- f. What truths from this psalm do you want to continue to think on today?

15. Day 15. Read Psalm 75.

- a. What do men declare according to verse 1?
- b. List the things that God declares from verses 2-5.
- c. What do you learn about *exaltation* from verses 6-7?
- d. As the judge, what does God do in verses 6-8?
- e. In the final verses of this psalm, what does the psalmist declare? See verses 9-10. Consider ways you can praise the Lord for being just, holy, impartial, and the judge of all the earth.

16. Day 16. Read Psalm 76.

- a. What facts about God are rehearsed in verses 1-3?
- b. What do you learn about God in verse 4?
- c. What happens to the mighty when they come face to face with God's might and holiness according to verses 5-6?
- d. The psalmist affirms certain truths about God. What do you learn about Him from verses 7-10?

- e. What do you learn about worshiping this mighty God from verses 11-12? How does this psalm expand your view of God?

17. Day 17. *Read Psalm 77.*

- a. How does the psalmist describe his physical, emotional, and spiritual condition according to verses 1-6?
- b. Though the psalmist is distressed, he still takes faith-filled steps to thing rightly. What do you observe from verses 1-6?
- c. In verses 7-9, the psalmist asks a series of questions. How do his questions give you insight into how the psalmist is processing his circumstances? See verses 7-10.
- d. Rather than staying in that misguided and unfruitful mental state, what does the psalmist do instead according to verses 11-15?
- e. List what you learn about God from verses 11-20. How can those truths about God Himself strengthen you when you are in troubles and trials?

18. Day 18. *Read Psalm 78.*

- a. What does the psalmist intend to do according to these opening verses? See verses 1-4.
- b. What is one of the first things the psalmist reminds you about in verses 5-8?

- c. Though the Israelites had been faithfully taught about God, they didn't respond with faith and trust in Him as you saw in verse 8. What else do you learn about how Israel responded to the Lord in verses 9-20?
 - d. In spite of their unfaithfulness to the Lord, what do you see the Lord doing in verses 9-20?
 - e. The cycle continues in verses 21-33. Briefly summarize what you see Israel doing and God's gracious response according to verses 21-33.
 - f. The Lord's loving discipline of His children produced the much-needed result in them. What do you learn from verses 34-35? How have you seen the Lord patiently and lovingly work in your life in similar ways when you have pulled away from Him?
19. Day 19. *Read Psalm 78.*
- a. Picking up from where you left off in the middle of Psalm 78, we see the cycle of the Lord's mercy and Israel's rebellion summarized again in verses 36-39. What do you observe about the Lord in those verses?
 - b. How did the Israelites respond to the Lord in the wilderness according to verses 40-42? Briefly summarize the ways the Lord worked on behalf of Israel in verses 42-55.
 - c. God continued to care for His children in the promised land. What do you learn about Israel's response to the Lord according to verses 56-58? As a consequence for rejecting their God, what happened according to verses 59-64?
 - d. In this psalm a final aspect of God's care for Israel is detailed. What do you learn from verses 65-72 about the way God provided for Israel?

- e. What truths about God do you see in this psalm that can aid you in your life?

20. Day 20. *Read Psalm 79.*

- a. In this psalm, Israel is again experiencing consequences for their sin in rebelling against the Lord. What situation is being described according to verses 1-3?
- b. What does the psalmist desire from the Lord according to verses 4-7?
- c. What appeal does he make to the Lord in verses 8-12?
- d. What is the psalmist sure will happen when the Lord rescues them? See verse 13.
- e. In spite of the catastrophes that have come upon Israel, the psalmist still looks to God for help. How can what you see in this psalm be a pattern for your own life?

21. Day 21. *Read Psalm 80.*

- a. What appeal to God is made in verses 1-3?
- b. The psalmist asks the Lord to bring an end to their time of discipline in verses 4-7. What reasons does he give for asking the Lord to bring an end to their trials in verses 4-6? What appeal to God is again made in verse 7?
- c. Israel is depicted as the vine from Egypt in verses 8-13. What happens to that vine in these verses?

- d. What does the psalmist ask the Lord to do in verses 14-17?
 - e. What final appeal is made to the Lord in verse 19? Spend some time thinking on that refrain from verses 3, 7 and 19. What does it teach you about God?
22. Day 22. *Read Psalm 81.*
- a. What statute did God decree for Israel according to verses 1-5?
 - b. What does God want Israel to remember? See verses 6-10.
 - c. Remember the ways the Lord has done similar work in your life. How should that move you to *sing for joy* as well?
 - d. Instead of remembering the Lord, what did Israel do? See verse 11. What was the result according to verse 12?
 - e. What does God desire to do for His children according to verses 13-16? What does this teach you about God's character?
23. Day 23. *Read Psalm 82.*
- a. What is God judging according to verses 1-4?
 - b. How does God desire the earthly rulers to lead God's people according to verses 1-4?

- c. What is God's assessment of these leaders according to verse 5?
 - d. How does God describe the position of influence He gives to world leaders in verse 6?
 - e. Yet, what is the fate of these earthly rulers? See verse 7. Why does that understanding about the world make verse 8 even more important?
 - f. What things do you learn about God in this psalm?
24. Day 24. *Read Psalm 83.*
- a. What does the psalmist request of the Lord in verse 1? Why? See verses 2-8.
 - b. You may not be familiar with the stories and people that are referenced in verses 9-12, but you can still make some observations about what the psalmist is asking of the Lord. What can you figure out from verses 9-12?
 - c. The psalmist continues to beseech the Lord to reckon with Israel's enemies in verses 13-17. What does he ask in these verses?
 - d. What is the psalmist's goal in asking the Lord to judge Israel's enemies according to verse 18?
 - e. How does God's holy and righteous judgment lead us to verse 18?

25. Day 25. *Read Psalm 84.*

- a. How does the psalmist view the Lord according to verses 1-4? To what extent would you say these verses capture the desires of your own heart?
- b. What do you learn about the blessed man from verses 5-7? How does he get that way according to what you've seen in verses 1-7?
- c. What are the considerations of the blessed man according to verses 8-10? Again, to what extent would you say these verses capture the desires of your own heart?
- d. List as many observations as you can about God from verses 11-12.
- e. How can those truths about the Lord affect how you think about the circumstances and events in your day?

26. Day 26. *Read Psalm 85.*

- a. As the psalmist prays for the nation of Israel, what does he remember in verses 1-3?
- b. How does he apply that past remembrance of God's mercy to his current situation? See verses 4-7.
- c. List all the things the psalmist knows are true about God's character from verses 8-13.
- d. How can you follow the psalmist's example today by remembering God's past deeds of mercy and deliverance to your current needs?

27. Day 27. Read Psalm 86.

- a. What is the psalmist asking the Lord to do for him according to verses 1-10?
- b. What parts of God's character does he call to mind as he seeks the Lord's help? See verses 1-10.
- c. What does the psalmist long for in verses 11-13?
- d. What is the psalmist's situation according to verse 14? What does he remember in verse 15? Why are those truths about God such important ones to remember during times of distress and trouble?
- e. What final request does the psalmist make in verses 16-17?
- f. Which of the psalmist's requests most fit your own heart's desire and need today? If you haven't already done so, take some time to follow the psalmist's example in seeking the Lord.

28. Day 28. Read Psalm 87.

- a. What do you learn about the city described in verses 1-3?
- b. What do you learn about the citizens of this special city in verses 4-6?
- c. How do the citizens view this city in verse 7?

d. What do you learn about God and His favor from this psalm?

29. Day 29. *Read Psalm 88.*

- a. How does the psalmist describe his situation according to verses 1-9?
- b. What does the psalmist know about God's role in his current situation (verses 1-9)?
- c. In verses 10-12, the psalmist asks different questions of God. Based on how he views his circumstances, what do those questions reveal about how he feels about his future?
- d. The psalmist obviously feels separated from God in verses 13-18. How does he describe how he feels in verses 13-18?
- e. Though the Lord *feels* far from the psalmist, what does the psalmist recognize and act upon? See verses 1, 2, 13.
- f. This psalm clearly shows that though we may feel alienated and separated from God, the way to gain comfort is in seeking the Lord. How can you apply that in your own life today?

30. Day 30. *Read Psalm 89.*

- a. What is one of the first things this psalm of praise to God focuses on in verses 1-4?

- b. List the attributes of God the psalmist extols in verses 5-10.

- c. Verses 11-18 continue praising the Lord. What else do you learn about your God in those verses?

- d. Verses 19-29 repeat God's promises to David and his successors. List what you learn about that amazing covenant.

- e. The covenant continues to be described in verses 30-37. What else do you learn about the covenant and about God Himself?

- f. Read verses 38-45. Based on what you have learned about the covenant God made to David's house, why would the king be experiencing those troubles? See verses 30-32.

- g. The psalmist gets more personal at the end of his prayer. What does he ask of the Lord and why does he have the boldness to ask it? See verses 46-52.