

## THE MINI STUDIES

### ~A MONTH IN PSALMS 128-150~

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 128.*
  - a. What do you learn right off the bat in verse 1?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What is the result of living out verse 1 in your life? See verses 2-4.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What blessing does the psalmist pronounce on those who put their trust in the Lord and seek to follow Him wholly? See verses 5-6.

- d. What are some of the blessings you have seen in your life as you have endeavored to fear Him and walk in His ways?

2. Day 2. *Read Psalm 129.*

- a. What trials are described in verses 1-3?
- b. At the end of verse 2 the psalmist said, “yet they have not prevailed against me.” Verse 4 explains why he can make a statement like that. What do you learn in verse 4?
- c. For all those who will not turn in trust and hope in the Lord, what does the psalmist hope for them according to verses 5-8?
- d. There’s a clear line in these psalms between those who walk in the Lord’s ways and those who don’t. Ultimately, the hope would be to give a blessing like the one at the end of verse 8 for those who turn in faith to follow the Lord. Take time right now to pray for those in your life who don’t know the Lord.

3. Day 3. *Read Psalm 130.*

- a. Where is the psalmist and what does he cry out for according to verses 1-2?
- b. What causes him to marvel in verses 3-4?
- c. Why does the psalmist bring up God’s forgiving nature when he is seeking help from the Lord? See verses 1-4.

- d. What is the psalmist doing in verse 5? To what degree is he doing this? See verse 6.
  
  - e. What final admonition is given in this psalm? See verse 7. What do you learn about the Lord from verses 7-8?
4. Day 4. *Read Psalm 131.*
- a. How does David describe his heart attitudes in verse 1?
  
  - b. What word picture does he use to show the attitude of his heart according to verse 2?
  
  - c. From verses 1-2, how would you describe David's disposition toward the Lord? What is admirable about it? How can you follow his example?
  
  - d. What final encouragement does David give in this psalm from verse 3?
  
  - e. How would your life be different throughout the day if you tried to apply this psalm in every circumstance and event you encounter?
5. Day 5. *Read Psalm 132.*
- a. What did David desire to do for the Lord according to verses 1-5?
  
  - b. David references some Old Testament events about the ark of the covenant in verse 6. The ark of the covenant resided in the tabernacle where God's glory rested. What does David desire to do in verse 7?

- c. What does David want the Lord to do according to verses 8-9?
  - d. David reminds the Lord about His special promises to him. What do you learn about those promises from verses 10-12?
  - e. What has God Himself said about His resting place according to verses 13-18?
6. Day 6. *Read Psalm 133.*
- a. What do you learn about unity from verse 1?
  - b. What word picture is used to describe unity in verse 2? What is being communicated about unity from that illustration?
  - c. What word picture is used to describe unity in verse 3? What is being communicated about it from that illustration?
  - d. What is it that God wants you to know about unity from this psalm? How can you apply it more faithfully in your life?
7. Day 7. *Read Psalm 134.*
- a. The psalm begins with an invitation to do something. What is it according to verse 1? Who is called to engage in this activity according to verse 1?
  - b. In verse 2, how are the Lord's servants encouraged to worship Him?

- c. What do you learn about the Lord from verse 3?
  
- d. How can you *bless the Lord* today?

8. Day 8. *Read Psalm 135.*

- a. In verses 1-4, list what the servants of the Lord are to do. Next, list what you learn about the Lord.
  
- b. Now, list what you discover about the Lord from verses 5-7.
  
- c. What things did the Lord “do” according to verses 8-18? What do you learn about idols from verses 15-18?
  
- d. What kinds of people praise and honor the Lord according to verse 20?
  
- e. What truths from this psalm or truths about the Lord do you want to remember today?

9. Day 9. *Read Psalm 136.*

- a. What is the number one thing you are supposed to *do* according to this psalm?
  
- b. What is the repeated truth you need to continually call to mind according to this psalm?

- c. From this psalm, list all the reasons *why* you are to respond with gratitude to the Lord.
  - d. How does seeing the Lord's lovingkindness in every event and circumstance in life lead to thankfulness in you?
10. Day 10. *Read Psalm 137.*
- a. What was Israel's situation in verses 1-3? Take note of *where* they are.
  - b. What was Israel's response in those circumstances according to verses 4-6?
  - c. What did Israel's relatives do according to verse 7?
  - d. Though not much detail is given, what can you observe about the Babylonians' treatment of Israel according to verses 8-9?
11. Day 11. *Read Psalm 138.*
- a. What does the psalmist desire to do according to verses 1-3? What things move him to gratitude in verses 1-3?
  - b. What will kings do according to verses 4-5? What things about God will move them to do this? See verses 4-6.
  - c. How does the psalmist describe his circumstances in verse 7?

- d. What does God do for him according to verses 7-8?
- e. What truths from this psalm do you want to think on today?

12. Day 12. *Read Psalm 139.*

- a. What aspects of God's nature and care comfort David in verses 1-6?
- b. David continues to meditate on more aspects of God in verses 7-12. What do you learn from those verses?
- c. Verses 13-18 contain more fabulous truths about the Lord. What do you learn from those verses about Him?
- d. From verses 1-18 list the truths about God that encourage you today and why.
- e. After reflecting on the Lord in the previous verses, David now talks to Him about his situation. What does he ask of the Lord in verses 19-24? Why would praying verses 23-24 be an important part of your daily time with the Lord?

13. Day 13. *Read Psalm 140.*

- a. How does David describe the actions of the wicked in verses 1-5?
- b. What does David desire the Lord to do for him in verses 1-5?

- c. What truths about God does David affirm in verses 6-7?
  - d. What does David desire for those who are enemies of God according to verses 8-11?
  - e. Verses 12-13 give insight into how and why David would pray the way he does. What do you learn from those verses?
  - f. What does this psalm teach you about praying in every situation and circumstance?
14. Day 14. *Read Psalm 141.*
- a. The longings of David's heart are put on display in this psalm. What do you learn about his deepest desires from verses 1-2?
  - b. David's yearning for holiness can be seen in the things he asks of the Lord. What does he ask and how does it reflect the intentions of his heart?
  - c. What does David desire from the righteous in verse 5? What is his prayer for the wicked according to verses 5-7?
  - d. Where does David look for rescue according to verse 8? How does he see his situation according to verses 8-10?
15. Day 15. *Read Psalm 142.*
- a. What does David do in verses 1-2?



- b. How does David describe his circumstances in verses 3-4? What does he know about the Lord from verse 3? How does that comfort him?
  - c. What truths does David proclaim to the Lord in verse 5?
  - d. With those truths about God firmly planted in his heart, what does David ask of the Lord in verses 6-7?
  - e. What is his ultimate goal in drawing near to the Lord according to verse 7? What are some ways you can apply this psalm to your life today?
16. Day 16. *Read Psalm 143.*
- a. How does David want God to answer him according to verse 1? David's understanding of God's character from verse 1 prompts him to plead with the Lord in verse 2. What does he ask of the Lord and why, especially considering verse 1?
  - b. What has the enemy done in verse 3? What was the result in David's life according to verse 4?
  - c. Though feeling overwhelmed and discouraged (see verse 4), what does David do in verses 5-6? Why would he employ this method to encourage himself? How can you apply it to your life?
  - d. What is David afraid will happen in verse 7?
  - e. According to verses 8-12, what are the remedies to a failing spirit (as mentioned in verse 7)? Why would each of those "remedies" encourage a dejected heart?

17. Day 17. *Read Psalm 144.*

- a. List the Lord's character qualities and actions that David rejoices in from verses 1-4. Take some time to rejoice in those same attributes and works of God in your own life.
- b. What does David desire the Lord to do in verses 5-8? Who is to be the target of these things (verses 7-8)?
- c. What works of God cause David to bless the Lord in verses 9-11?
- d. What does David desire the Lord to do for him and his people according to verses 12-14? What assurance does David have of receiving the Lord's favor according to verse 15?
- e. What characteristics of God stand out to you from this psalm? How do they encourage you today?

18. Day 18. *Read Psalm 145.*

- a. What things about God does David find praiseworthy in verses 1-7? What response does it ignite in him (verses 1-7)?
- b. David rejoices in more of God's attributes and works in verses 8-13. What are they? What response should it provoke in you (verses 8-13)?
- c. What do you learn about God from verses 14-16? How do you see those attributes at work in your own life?

- d. In verses 14-21 the word “all” is used frequently. What do you learn in those verses about the word “all?”
  
- e. What truths from this psalm do you want to remember and think on today?

19. Day 19. *Read Psalm 146.*

- a. What do you learn about praise from verses 1-2?
  
- b. What do you learn about where you should place your trust and why from verses 3-7?
  
- c. What works of God are extolled in verses 8-10?
  
- d. Remember, the same God worshiped in these verses is the same God at work in your life. What truths about Him encourage you today?

20. Day 20. *Read Psalm 147.*

- a. Why is it good to praise the Lord according to verse 1?
  
- b. Verses 2-6 list many reasons to praise the Lord. What do you learn?
  
- c. What do you learn about the Lord from verses 7-11?

- d. List all the ways the Lord works to care for and bless His people from verses 12-20.
  
- e. Review verse 11 and consider the ways you see the Lord's favor and lovingkindness in your life.

21. Day 21. *Read Psalm 148.*

- a. This psalm is a giant anthem of praise. Who should praise the Lord according to verses 1-4?
  
- b. What reasons are given for praising God according to verses 5-6?
  
- c. Describe the range of creation that is to join in praising God from verses 7-12.
  
- d. Why are you to join with all creation in praising the Lord according to verses 13-14?

22. Day 22. *Read Psalm 149.*

- a. What are you to do according to verse 1? Where should you do this (verse 1)?
  
- b. How should God's people respond to the Lord according to verses 2-4? Why? Verse 4.
  
- c. What are the godly supposed to do according to verse 5?

- d. Praising God means rejoicing in His holiness and righteousness. Describe what zeal for the Lord looks like from verses 6-9.
  
- e. Consider how you can “sing for joy on your bed” when it comes to delighting in God.

23. Day 23. Read Psalm 150.

- a. Isn't it fitting that the last psalm in the book of Psalms would be a call to praise the Lord? What things should be part of your daily habit of extolling the Lord's praises according to this psalm?
  
- b. Who should praise the Lord according to verse 6?
  
- c. If you are having trouble praising the Lord today, what specifics listed in this psalm can give you a start?

“Some think that this last psalm is designed to represent to us the work of glorified saints in heaven, who are there continually praising God, and that the musical instruments here said to be used are no more to be understood literally than the gold, and pearls, and precious stones, which are said to adorn the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:18, 19). But, as those intimate that the glories of heaven are the most excellent glories, so these intimate that the praises the saints offer there are the most excellent praises. Prayers will there be swallowed up in everlasting praises; there will be no intermission in praising God, and yet no weariness—hallelujahs for ever repeated, and yet still new songs.

Let us often take a pleasure in thinking what glorified saints are doing in heaven, what those are doing whom we have been acquainted with on earth, but who have gone before us thither; and let it not only make us long to be among them, but quicken us to do this part of the will of God on earth as those do it that are in heaven. And let us spend as much of our time as may be in this good work because in it we hope to spend a joyful eternity. Hallelujah is the word there (Rev. 19:1, 3); let us echo to it now, as those that hope to join in it shortly. Hallelujah, praise you the Lord.” ~Matthew Henry<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 954.