

Psalm 51

October 11-12, 2023

DAVID'S SONGS

* A STUDY OF SELECTED PSALMS *

1. King David wrote Psalm 51 after he was confronted with the harsh reality of his sin. Read 2 Samuel 11:2-17, 26-27. Briefly summarize David's sins.

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-9,13 where Nathan confronts David about his sin. What does he identify as the root of David's sin in 12:9?

2. Read all of Psalm 51 with this story of David in mind. In your own words, describe what is going on in David's heart and mind as he pens these words.

3. Read Psalm 51:1-2. What four appeals does David make to God?

On which two attributes of God does David makes his appeal?

4. Read Psalm 51:2-6. What words or phrases does David use as he confesses his sin?

What can you learn from David on how to approach God in prayerful confession?

5. Read Psalm 51:7-12. Record what David desires from the Lord in each of these verses.

Verse 7:

Verse 8:

Verse 9:

Verse 10:

Verse 11:

Verse 12:

Why do you think these things matter so deeply to David?

6. Read Psalm 51:13-15. What will be David's response to the Lord's forgiveness and restoration?

Read Psalm 66:16-19 and Psalm 71:15-16. What are some truths we can learn when forgiven sinners share what God has done for them?

Is there a person in your life whom you can encourage with a personal story of how you have experienced God's forgiveness and restoration?

What are some truths about God's forgiveness and restoration you could share from your story?

7. Read Psalm 51:16-17. Before Christ, Israel was required by God's law to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of sin. David understands those sacrifices are meaningless unless they are made with a repentant heart. How can you cultivate a repentant and contrite heart before God?

8. Read Psalm 51:18-19. Zion is another name for Israel. What does David ask of God in verse 18?

Why do you think David expresses concern for the wellbeing of his nation at the end of this prayer?

Think about your own sphere of influence. Record a time your sin negatively influenced someone else.

Record a time your obedience to God had a positive influence on others.

Thinking about how your actions influence others, how will this change the way you pray this week?

9. Write your own prayer psalm of confession and repentance relating to your life circumstances today.

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Psalm 55
October 18-19, 2023

**DAVID'S
SONGS**

* A STUDY OF SELECTED PSALMS *

1. Think of a time when you felt betrayed or had a confidence compromised by a friend, relative, boss, or co-worker. How did you react to the loss of trust?
2. Begin by reading Psalm 55 in its entirety. What are some of the emotions David is experiencing as he pens this prayer to the Lord?

What observations can you make about David as you study verses 1-5?

Who is upsetting him and why?

3. As David continues talking with the Lord, what does he confess he would like to do in Psalm 55:6-8?

How do you handle your thoughts and feelings when you experience a desire to “escape” from life’s hard times?

In what way does David’s longing for a safe refuge remind you of our future eternal refuge?
Read Revelation 21:3-4; 22:3-5.

4. Read Psalm 55:9-11. What does David reveal is happening around him?

5. As a warrior and leader, David understands the importance of communication. What action does he implore the Lord to take regarding communication in Psalm 55:9?

Why does David make this specific request regarding his enemy?

6. Read Psalm 55:12-15, 20-21. What surprising truth do you learn from verse 12?

Write down words that describe David's past relationship with his betrayer according to verses 13-14.

How does the word picture "stabbed in the back" depict David's feelings in verses 20-21?

Look back at verse 12. Why would it be easier for him to deal with an enemy than a trusted friend?

Describe some of the losses we can experience when a trusted friend, relative, or co-worker betrays our trust.

7. Although it is uncertain who has turned against David, there have been several who fit the bill of betrayer in his life. Read the following verses and record who has betrayed him.

1 Samuel 19:2

2 Samuel 15:10

2 Samuel 15:31

8. Read Psalm 55:16-19. What insight do you glean from David on how to navigate a difficult time of broken trust from these verses?

9. Read Psalm 55:22-23. Write out David's wisdom from verse 22 in your own words.

What sustains David according to verse 23 even in a time of emotional pain and betrayal?

10. As you look back at Psalm 55, what verses from David's prayer psalm remind you of the truth that people may fail us, and what verses remind you that our God is always faithful?

11. Write your own prayer psalm of relationship struggles relating to your life circumstances today.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Psalm 62
October 25-26, 2023

**DAVID'S
SONGS**

* A STUDY OF SELECTED PSALMS *

1. What is a song about God you enjoy? Describe why the song lyrics are meaningful to you.
2. Read Psalm 62 in its entirety. What verse in this prayer song most stands out to you and why?
3. Read Psalm 62:1-2. List and reflect on the descriptions of God.

Summarize the hope for David's soul.

David shows a personal, intimate connection with God by repeating the word "my" in verse 2. How can meditating on "my" in this verse grow your inward confidence and trust in God?

4. David turns from speaking to his own soul to speaking to and about the attackers in Psalm 62:3-4. Which description of the attackers bothers you most, and why?
5. Compare Psalm 62:1-2 to Psalm 62:5-6. Why do you think David uses such clear repetition?

Depending on your Bible's translation, you may see "alone," "only," and "truly" repeated in verses 1, 2, 5, and 6. What do you think David wants us to grasp by this repetition?

6. David aspires for his soul to wait in silence, or internal rest, in God. What situations make it difficult to quiet your soul before God?

In difficult seasons and everyday life, what helps your soul trust in and wait for God?

7. Read Psalm 62:7. Rephrase this verse in your own words as a reminder to your own soul.

8. Read Psalm 62:8. What two commands does David give?

David longs for us to trust and talk to God because He is a strong refuge. In what ways is God a refuge and fortress for you?

What good have you experienced from relying on God?

In Psalm 62:8, David encourages others to rely on God as their refuge. Write your own encouragement about trusting God and be prepared to share it with a friend this week.

9. Read Psalm 62:9-10. Verse 9 reminds us nothing on earth is as weighty as God's glory. After reading the warning in verse 10, ask God to show you unhealthy places you run for help. We all struggle with misplaced trust. In what or whom do you sometimes trust more than God?

Why do you tend to trust those people or things more than God?

10. The psalm ends with David talking to God and focuses on two of His characteristics. Read Psalm 62:11-12. Write the attributes and a definition for each.

Why do you think these characteristics are essential for a confident psalm of trust?

11. Psalm 62:12 reminds us that God sees what we do. Looking back over Psalm 62:3, 4, and 10, what are some actions that are not honoring to God?

What consequences have you experienced from choosing those actions?

12. David talks to different people at different points through the psalm. List the audience for each verse along with why addressing each person is important.

Verse 5:

Verse 8:

Verse 12:

13. Write your own prayer psalm of confident trust in God relating to your life circumstances today.

14. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Psalm 86

November 1-2, 2023

DAVID'S SONGS

* A STUDY OF SELECTED PSALMS *

1. Think of a time in your life when you felt overwhelmed by the world around you. What are some things you trusted in for encouragement?
2. Read Psalm 86 in its entirety. Jot down repeated words or phrases.

David was the king of Israel, yet what does he call himself in verse 2?

How might it have changed the psalm if David approached God as a king instead of a servant?

What specific things can you do to check your attitude when approaching God in prayer?

Look back at the repeated phrases throughout this psalm. David prayed boldly but humbly. How does David display his humility even as he prays boldly?

3. In Psalm 86:1-10, what are some specific things David asks for?

David lists several characteristics of God. What does David know to be true of the Lord that encourages David's trust in Him?

Think back through your life and list the ways you have seen the Lord's steadfast love.

4. Now read Psalm 86:11. Take some time to meditate on verse 11. What do you think is David's heart behind each of the following requests?

“Teach me your ways:”

“Unite my heart:”

How would these things be helpful in David's desperate state? Read Proverbs 19:21.

5. Read Psalm 86:12-13. Why is David motivated to thank and glorify God?

How might our prayers change when they are centered on giving God all the glory?

6. Continue reading Psalm 86:14-17. How does David describe his oppressors?

In contrast, how does David describe God?

David spends most of this psalm focusing on God and only vaguely describes those that are against him. How does focusing on God instead of your circumstances help you in trials?

7. Reread Psalm 86:17. David wanted his enemies to know God sustained him. In what ways can we use our trials to witness to the world around us?

Look back again at Psalm 86:9. What is David's hope for all people and all nations? Read Psalm 22:27.

8. Take one more look at Psalm 86. Even though David is lamenting and calling on the Lord to hear him in this psalm, he also displays complete trust and spends time praising God while he is waiting on God to answer him. How do you respond to God while you are waiting?

What verse or verses from this psalm can you use in your own prayer life to help while waiting on the Lord?

9. Write your own prayer psalm focusing on the things you know to be true of God and how you trust in Him in your life circumstances today.

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Psalm 143

November 8-9, 2023

DAVID'S SONGS

* A STUDY OF SELECTED PSALMS *

1. Our boldest prayers are often prayed in desperate circumstances. Recall a time when your circumstances led you to boldly pray to the Lord. What emotions led you to pray earnestly?

Why is prayer often our last resort when faced with difficult circumstances?

2. Read all of Psalm 143. In verse 1, what characteristics of God give David the confidence to boldly pray?

Why do you think David asks the Lord to hear and listen to his plea?

3. Read Psalm 143:2. In light of what he knows to be true about God, what is David's concern?

What can we learn about David's approach to the Lord that we can apply to our prayers?

4. Read Psalm 143:3-4. Describe the emotions David is feeling.

5. Read Psalm 143:5. What does David do to change his perspective in the midst of his despair?

What are some practical ways you remember all the Lord has done for you?

6. Read Psalm 143:6. After remembering all the Lord had done for him, how did David respond to his desperate circumstances?

How might you respond differently to your current circumstances if you were purposeful about remembering all the Lord has done for you?

7. Read 143:7-8. Record the words which reveal David's desire for the Lord's attention.

What part of verse 8 is especially meaningful to you?

What are some practical ways you seek God's guidance?

8. Finish by reading Psalm 143:9-12. David asks the Lord for several specific actions in these verses. On what basis does he make each request to the Lord?

“Deliver me from my enemies”

“Teach me your will”

“Lead me on level ground”

“Preserve my life”

“Bring my soul out of trouble”

“Cut off my enemies”

What can we learn about David from these bold requests?

9. At the beginning and the end of Psalm 143, David refers to himself as a servant of the Lord. Thinking about the qualities of a servant, describe what it means to you to be a servant of the Lord.

10. Looking back over Psalm 143, what verse challenges you or encourages you to pray boldly in your circumstances?

11. Write your own prayer psalm that boldly reveals you trust the Lord with your difficult life circumstances today.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Psalm 145

November 15-16, 2023

DAVID'S SONGS

* A STUDY OF SELECTED PSALMS *

1. Read Psalm 145 in its entirety. List all you learn about the act of praise in this beautiful psalm.

What issues arise in your life which weaken your practice of praise and thanksgiving?

Write down one verse of this psalm that speaks to your heart.

2. Psalm 145 is the celebratory conclusion to David's seventy-three psalms from the Book of Psalms. What are some of the specific things we learn about David's relationship to the Lord when considering his heartfelt words?

Take the time to study Psalm 145 and paraphrase the reasons for David's praise in these categories:

WHO GOD IS:

WHAT GOD HAS DONE:

WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED TO DO:

3. Read Psalm 145:1-3. What are the actions or disciplines of David when it comes to praising God?

What benefits have you seen in your life when God's praises remain on your heart and mind?

4. Read Psalm 145:4-7. How do we maintain a tradition of praise for future believers?

What are some of the specific praises David shares about God in 145:4-7?

What are some specific praises about God you enjoy sharing with others?

5. Read Psalm 145:8-9. Which of these amazing attributes of God has blessed you in a special way recently, and how were you blessed?

6. What and who do we find thanking God in Psalm 145:10?

7. Believers in God understand the wonders of God. Read Psalm 145:11-12. What is our assignment?

Why is this our job according to Romans 10:13-15?

8. Read Psalm 145:13 along with 145:1. God's kingdom refers to His rule over everything before creation and eternally after. Who does David see as his sovereign ruler over this kingdom?

What do we learn about this kingdom in 145:12b and 145:13a?

9. Though God's kingdom is mighty and everlasting, what do we learn about God in Psalm 145:14?

How did these truths impact your faith when you first turned to God?

10. Psalm 145:15-20 gives us examples of God upholding and raising us up. What are these promises?

145:15

145:16

145:17

145:18

145:19

145:20

11. What is David's admonition for himself and for all mankind in Psalm 145:21?

12. Write your own prayer psalm of praise relating to your life circumstances today.

13. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group