

## Week 1 Discussion Guide

Read **Psalm 65** and discuss the following.

David tells us that God is worthy of praise (**v.1**). Discuss all the reasons listed in this psalm. Which is most encouraging to you personally, and why?

The psalm is comprised of three stanzas (**v.1-4, v.5-8, v.9-13**). How would you categorize these individual stanzas? What does each communicate about God?

**Verse 5** says that God is “*the hope of all the ends of the earth.*” Consider the implications of this statement. What does this mean?

**Verse 8** states there is a purpose for the Lord’s deeds. In your own words, what’s the point of God’s gracious and mighty acts?

Given the description of His glorious power and provision, how should we respond to God? Describe what an appropriate response might look like.

## Week 2 Discussion Guide

Read **Psalm 84** and discuss the following.

What would you say is the biggest longing of your heart? If you could ask God for absolutely anything, what would it be? How do these kinds of questions reveal the longing of your heart?

This is a psalm of praise that celebrates one's pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship in the Lord's presence at the temple. How would you describe the yearning of these opening verses? What is being longed for?

Three times the psalm speaks of the "*blessed*" (**v.4, 5, 12**). Who is described in each of these pronouncements?

How is God described?

What encouragement or instruction will you glean from this psalm?

## Week 3 Discussion Guide

Read **Psalm 121** and discuss the following.

Describe the primary message of the psalm in your own words.

How does knowing God as Creator encourage us to trust Him as our Helper? When are you tempted to look for help elsewhere?

What does it mean when it says that He “*keeps*” us? How is this described in the psalm?

What do we learn about God from this psalm? How is He uniquely different from us?

Which verse or phrase do you find most encouraging, and why?

## Week 4 Discussion Guide

Read **Psalm 107** and discuss the following.

There are 4 different groups of people described in this psalm (**v.4-9; 10-16; 17-22; 23-32**). Summarize each of these troubling situations. What do each of these groups have in common?

Which words and phrases are most repeated? Describe the pattern that they indicate.

This is a psalm of thanksgiving. List the reasons given for the psalmist's gratitude. What reasons do you have to "*give thanks*"?

Consider **v.33-42** for a moment. What do these verses teach us about God?

Read **v.43** and discuss its meaning. Why is it important to understand Israel's history? Explain.

## Week 5 Discussion Guide

Read **Psalm 55** and discuss the following.

What is David lamenting? Can you relate to this particular kind of grief? Explain.

David is considered a hero in the faith—a strong leader of God’s people. Yet here, he expresses a desire to flee. What does David ask of the Lord? Have you ever made similar requests? How can a passage like this offer a measure of comfort to the believing reader today?

While many things are out of David’s hands, what is still within his control?

How can Jesus relate to the kind of grief described in this psalm?

Discuss the implications this psalm has upon friendship. List the practical advice it provides. What stands out to you most, and why?

## Week 6 Discussion Guide

Read **Psalm 78** and discuss the following.

What is the psalmist saying in these opening lines (**v.1-4**)?

Asaph was a contemporary of David. Beyond what was passed down from his father's generation, what "*glorious deeds of the Lord*" might have occurred in his lifetime?

This historical psalm speaks of generational blessing. How many different generations are mentioned in **v.1-8**? How can we best bless the next generation?

According to this psalm, what is the chief purpose of intentional instruction? How can we do this? What does it tangibly involve?

Who is given as the negative example to *not* imitate? List some specific things we can learn from the unfaithful wilderness-wandering generation.

## **Week 7 Discussion Guide**

Read **Psalm 44** and discuss the following.

What do the writers of this psalm claim to know about God and his past deeds? What else do they credit Him with?

In your own words, describe the trouble facing the writers of this psalm? How exactly are they struggling? What kinds of difficulties are they wrestling with? Can you relate with what they describe?

What petition is made in the psalm, and what does it reveal about those who made the request?

How do you see genuine faith expressed in this psalm? Where do you notice glimpses of its absence? Is it possible to simultaneously trust and doubt? Why or why not?

What specific encouragement can you takeaway from this psalm? Explain.

## Week 8 Discussion Guide

Read **Psalm 50** and discuss the following.

What are some of the different ways God is described in this psalm?

Why would God not be pleased with a sacrifice?

In light of **v.12**, why would Asaph tell us to: *“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High”*?

How is this passage similar to what Jesus taught in **Matthew 5**? Explain.

What areas of your life do you find yourself *“playing church”* and not walking with God?