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## ***SERIES 2: PERSONAL FAITH IN GOD***

### **BOOK 2:**

#### ***Psalms 1-74***

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### **Book 2: Psalms**

#### **Introduction**

As you read Psalms 1-75, you will learn of the blessed way of righteousness, as you walk with your Lord God by faith. The psalms express the heart-cry of God's people to their Lord, so read these not as simple words of instruction but essentially, *guidelines for your heart*. For, as you read this first movement of psalms, you will see how the Godly have drawn near to seek the Lord for generations. You will see how you are called to testify of the Lord's faithfulness and steadfast love to a *godless* world denying the very existence of God! And, you will see your final vindication, as the Lord exalts you and all His people at His coming, proving your words of testimony to be right and true. So, learn to seek the Lord and shelter in His steadfast love, even as the whole world turns against you because you belong to your Lord God!

### STEPS of a *Devoted Disciple*:

Your *Devotion* matters to the Lord. For, there is only one Lord and God, and He deserves creation's highest honor and praise. So, you were made to give yourself to the Lord God in loving devotion of heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). In this same devotion to the Lord, Jesus Christ calls you to follow Him as His disciple. These short devotionals guide you in the Word to cultivate a heart devotion to the Lord as His disciple.

- First, **discover** what His life-giving Word has to say to you personally, being careful to write down your insights to share with others.
- Then, **discuss** His Word with those closest to you: your family, your friends, and in your home fellowship group (your spiritual family).
- Next, **dialogue** to compare views on key passages with a partner—either another disciple, or an older mentor or younger mentee.
- Finally, **develop** key skills as you abide in the Word by applying it to your life as you read the devotional, notes, and footnotes.

#### **START HERE:** *Humble Yourself in Prayer:*

*Devote yourself to the Lord to hear and do His Will for you.*

☐ *Do I want to humble myself under the Lordship of God by faith?*

☐ *Or, will I live as my own Lord, relying on my own understanding?*

#### **PRAYER OF DEVOTION**

Lord God, I devote my life to you today. I offer you my soul to live humbly under your Lordship; my mind to seek your will and Spirit; my heart to

love you and others; and, my strength to obey your Word and Will!  
Amen.

## Chapter 1: FAITH OF THE RIGHTEOUS: Known by Lord *Psalm 1, 4, 5*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

### **a. Preview Psalm 1, 4, 5**

**Faith of the Righteous:** Known by the Lord. The Psalms give voice to the heart of the Righteous Ones as they call out to the Lord by faith. So, read Psalms 1, 4, and 5 to see how the *faith of the Righteous* binds the Righteous with their Lord in an active relationship!

First, see how the Righteous actively **know the Lord** by His Word and are known by the Lord, resulting in abounding spiritual fruit in the lives of the righteous (Psalm 1). Then, see how the Righteous **trust in the Lord God** by faith, and this faith enables them to *offer right sacrifices* to the Lord. And, when the *righteous* sacrifice, offering up the ways and wealth of this world, they receive in return a *heavenly joy* that far exceeds worldly rewards! (Psalm 4). Finally, when the Righteous walk by faith in the Lord, the Lord God not only *knows their way* but also **leads them** in the **way of "righteousness"**! (Ps. 5)

**b. Prayerfully Read Psalm 1, 4, 5 and Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b> What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b> What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>	

What lesson can I apply to my life?	
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**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.

Q1. How do the *righteous ones* relate to the Lord?

Q2: How does the Lord work in the lives of His righteous ones?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints** as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.

**Q1.** How do the Righteous know the Lord and His ways? (Psalm 1)

**1. Know the Lord: By His Word.** The *righteous* do not simply know *about the Lord*. Rather, they know and experience the Lord in their whole lives by faith, like a *well-watered tree* knows the refreshing streams it draws on for life (3). And, what is the source of *life* that draws the righteous near to God? It is the very *Law of the Lord*, God's Word that is given with the authority and voice of the Creator. When the righteous *delight* and *meditate* on the Lord's

Words, they soak in the Life of the Lord to know him and be known by Him.

Q2. How do the righteous live with the Lord by faith? (Psalm 4)

**2. Trust in the Lord God: By Faith.** The faith of the righteous is not simply a *passive agreement that God exists*. Rather, the *righteous* trust God for all things, having put their entire lives into His hands as a *right sacrifice* (5). The righteous even trust God to *be their righteousness* (1), forsaking the *fleshly* self-righteousness which comes from our original *unbelief* to take God's place of Lordship to *define* "good" and "evil" for ourselves (2:17). And, the *righteous* have a *sacrificial faith*, entrusting themselves to the Lord even as they *trust* Him to answer and work in their lives.

Q3. How does the Lord actively work in the lives of the righteous as they walk with him by faith? (Psalm 5)

**3. Leads in Way of Righteousness: Known by Lord: Family.**

When the righteous draw near to the Lord by faith even from the day's earliest moments (2-3), the Lord *bears* and reveals His *steadfast love* to them (7). In love, the Lord leads the righteous and gives them

safe refuge (8, 11). So, the Lord actively leads the righteous in the pleasing way, because He knows them in love.

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

**Faith of the Righteous: Mutual Delight.** Sadly, many who have faith in their own Self-righteousness are deprived of the *delightful and deep* life of faith enjoyed by the *righteous* and their God. Instead, the *faith* of the *Self-righteous* is simply a disguise for their own *way of sin* (Ps. 1:1), as the unrighteous cling to certain truths about God to *justify* their own *Self-Way* to become righteous by their own hand. So, the *faith* of the Self-righteous is necessarily dry, flimsy, and easily dismissed as *chaff* in the judgment (1:5). But, if you *trust in the Lord* even for your own *righteousness* (Ps. 4:1), knowing that the Lord is the only sure source of *life* and righteousness (Jer. 23:6). Then, your *faith* will focus not on any flimsy and *fleshly* good-deeds or right beliefs you may wish to cover yourself with. But your faith hydrates you in the “streams of water” of God's Law, as you delight and nourish your soul on it (1:3). Because the faith of the righteous involves *all of their lives*, they gladly *offer right sacrifices* of their very lives along with their faith, entrusted to the Lord for His work. If you delight in the Lord by such faith, you will be filled with the Lord's spiritual “joy” beyond anything material which can reward you! (7).

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question   Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or <b>change</b> ?	

**DIFFER: Disagree**

What insight or Bible  
verse to **differ**?

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/  
mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>1</sup>: Law of the Lord:** The Lord's Word is *Law* because these are the very words of the Creator, whose mere voice created all that is seen and unseen. Because the righteous delight in the Lord God's word of power, they are well-nourished like a fruitful tree. And, by delighting in the Law of the Lord, they become familiar with this God and His ways. Thus, the Law of the Lord is delightful because it acquaints the righteous with the very life and heart of God!

**Added Notes: Stand in Judgment/ Congregation:** The righteous and their ways are "known" by the Lord (1:6), because *their faith* draws them into a mutually delightful relationship with the Lord. So, because the Lord knows the *righteous*, *He becomes their "righteousness"* (Jer. 23:6). For, to claim a self-righteousness *apart* from God is to lift up the human Self as a worthy replacement of the Lordship of God. Those who claim a *Self-righteousness* will not "stand in God's holy judgment, being earthly creatures of mere flesh. Nor, will they stand in the *congregation* of God's spiritual people, for their own *fleshy life* is mere chaff in the wind.

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## Chapter 2: REFUGE IN LORD: Safe Throne and Temple

### ***Psalm 9, 10, 11***

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself then **Write** *Insights to Share with others.*

#### a. **Preview Psalm 9, 10, 11**

**Refuge in the Lord:** Afflicted in the World. In this world corrupted by the *fleshly godlessness* of humanity (Gen. 6: ), the Lord God's *righteous ones* are afflicted. So, read Psalms 9, 10, and 11 to discover how the Lord's presence in His Throne and Temple are a refuge for His righteous ones.

First, see how the Lord's ***throne of judgment*** provides a secure refuge for the *righteous*, for at the throne of God the Lord *reveals* His justice to humble man before His presence! (Ps. 9). Then, see how the *righteous* are afflicted in this life by the *arrogance of the wicked*, who shamelessly reject God and boast in their own fleshly security. Though the wicked cannot imagine being called to give an *account* for their actions, the righteous ***wait for king's justice***, knowing that the Lord is *king* and will satisfy the desires of his afflicted ones! (Ps. 10). Finally, we see that the *righteous* must endure *affliction* from the ungodly as even the very *foundations of earthly life* are shaken, because the Lord *tests* the righteous to see that they take ***refuge at His throne and temple***, so proving by their deeds they share in His righteous life to see His *face* in the end! (Ps. 11).

*b. Prayerfully **Read Psalm 9, 10, 11** and **Write** your insights to share*

<b>SEEING</b> What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b> What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b> What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How can the righteous find safety in this ungodly world of affliction?

Q2: Why does the Lord allow the righteous to be afflicted while the ungodly appear at ease?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.**

Q1 Where will the righteous find safety from their enemies?  
(Psalm 9)

**1. Throne of Judgment: Secure Refuge.** The righteous will be *afflicted* by this world's *ungodly people, enemies* who seek to kill and destroy the righteous. However, the *righteous* can still exult in the Lord, at whose *presence* the Godless turn back and perish (3). For, even if the world is filled with enemies who live as the *lords* of this earth, the *righteous* draw near to the throne of God. As they draw near, they know that the Lord is *enthroned forever* (7) and is a *stronghold* when the righteous are oppressed. Enthroned, God is resolute in his purpose to judge and remind the nations they are “but men”! (20).

Q2. How should the righteous respond to the wicked deeds of the ungodly? (Psalm 10)

**2. Waiting for King's Justice: Righteous Lord.** Though the righteous are *safe* in the presence of the Lord and His throne, they still must endure the *outrageous offense* of the wicked who live as if “there is no God” (4) and fearlessly imagine they will never be brought before the Lord in judgment (13). Yet, the righteous wait for the Lord, who is enthroned as *king forever and ever* (16). Though the nations and their rebels will one day *perish*, the Lord comforts the afflicted and gives His justice to the “oppressed” (18).

Q3. How can the righteous survive testing when even the foundations are destroyed? (Psalm 11)

**3. Refuge at throne and temple:** Enduring Tests. One day, the godlessness of this world will come to its evil fruition, as the *wicked* destroy the very *foundations of life and righteousness*. In this time of rampant *lawlessness*, how will the righteous be preserved as their faith in the Lord is tested? The righteous will find refuge in the Lord God and His sheltering presence, for as they *worship* in times of testing, *they find rest in His holy temple* (4). And, as they draw near for mercy and grace, they present themselves before the Lord's *heavenly throne*. When the *righteous and their deeds* are proven genuine, even when tested, the Lord will accept and love their *righteous deeds* and the righteous will see His face! (7).

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.**

**Refuge in Affliction: Throne and Temple of Lord.** In this world, you will face opposition and affliction from the *ungodly* and *wicked* people of this world. How will you endure such opposition, knowing that as wickedness increases, the very *foundations* of life and society are “destroyed” (3). But the Lord God provides you relief even as your enemies multiply and the very *foundations* of a just society are destroyed!

First, be sure to *find refuge* in the *presence of God*, where His burning holiness causes your enemies to *turn back, stumble, and perish* before Him (Ps. 9:3). For, life and its hardships may rise and fall, but the Lord *sits enthroned forever*, unchanging as a stronghold of grace for His people! (7). Then, pour your *desires* for *righteous justice* before Him (Ps. 10:17), knowing that the Lord will strengthen you and soon give you justice! (18).

Finally, know that the world’s *afflictions* are meant to *test you*, to see if your heart will rest in the Lord’s *temple* in worship and toward the Lord’s *throne* in pleas for grace and mercy! For, when you pass this world’s test, you will “behold his face” in righteousness! (Ps. 11:7).

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

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What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>2</sup>: Throne of God:** The Throne of God is His seat of *rule*, from which He renders just decisions for His people. The Lord is *enthroned forever*, and this *throne* stands at the *head* of all in heaven and earth, material and spiritual. Although the throne of God is hidden to *earthly eyes*, it is not inaccessible. Rather, the *righteous approach His throne to rest* in the Lord's *stronghold* (Ps. 9:9) and His *holy presence* as their *refuge* (Ps. 11:1).

**Added Notes: Testing: Loving Righteous Deeds:** The Lord alone is *righteous*, being the source of His eternal, righteous life (Ps. 11:7), so He loves the *righteous deeds* of His afflicted ones when they are tested by this world's ungodliness and unrighteousness. For, when the Lord's people hold to the Lord in *faith*, He works through their humility and brokenness to produce the *righteous deeds which He loves*. At the end of their test, these *faithful ones* shall "behold His face" (Ps. 11:7).

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## Chapter 3: SECURE IN LOVE: Treasuring Lord's Salvation

### *Psalms 16, 17, 18:31-50*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View* God's Word for yourself then *Write* Insights to Share with others.

#### *a. Preview Psalms 16, 17, 18:31-50*

**Secure in Love:** Treasuring Lord's Salvation. The Lord's saints are His *precious and holy ones*, the people of His own possession. So, read Psalms 16, 17, and 18 to see how the Lord and His saints mutually treasure one another, for they share a *kindred, steadfast love*.

First, walk in the ways of David, to ***treasure the Lord as your beautiful inheritance***. In this world you will be tempted by those who follow *bloody idols*, but set your heart only on the Lord as your portion, for His way alone leads to life (Ps. 16)! Surely, this world is full of dangers, but you are ***secure in the Savior's kindred steadfast love***, for the Lord shares this love with you because you are *precious to Him* and part of His family (Ps. 17). So, ***lovingly respond to the Lord's saving, steadfast love*** which He shows to His family, to David and His Seed forever (Ps. 18:31-50).

*b. Prayerfully Read Psalms 16, 17, 18:31-50 and Write your insights to share*

<b>SEEING</b> What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b> What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b> What lesson can I apply to my life?	



**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How can you treasure the Lord as your portion in this life?

Q2: Why does the Lord God share His steadfast love with His people?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. How should you value the Lord like David? (Psalm 16)

**1. Treasure the Lord as your beautiful inheritance.** King David treasured the Lord and saw Him as the most valuable and important person in His life on earth! This value runs through Psalm 16, and it should inspire you to regard the Lord God as holy. Nothing in this world should compete with His high value in your eyes! So, the Lord is the very reality of “good” for David (2). He is regarded as David’s “portion and cup”—his sustenance, pleasure, and future “inheritance” (5-6). If you treasure the Lord, He will treasure you!

Q2. How does the Lord God feel toward those who value Him?  
(Psalm 17)

**2. Secure in Savior's steadfast love:** Kindred Affections. God highly regards his people who value Him, and He “tests” their hearts to know their genuine affections for Him. For, He “wondrously” shows His *steadfast love* to those who honor him in this way: seeing them tenderly as precious (8), defending them (13), and revealing His “face” with them, for they share His likeness as members of His own family (15).

Q3. How will you respond to the Lord's saving, steadfast love?  
(Psalm 18)

**3. Lovingly respond to the Lord's saving steadfast love:** Because you will see the Lord's faithfulness as you are faithful to him, then respond in love to His *steadfast love*! David exclaims, “I love you, O Lord, my strength... my rock and my fortress, my deliverer” (2). The Lord is not a distant, anonymous deity. He is yours, for you have made the Lord your portion and possession! So, exult in His tender faithfulness to you, because He considers you His own.

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

**Family Love: Grace.** This world is full of *dazzling treasures*, but will you choose to *treasure God* as your life's true portion? For, the Lord longs to value you as you value Him! Your *spiritual forefather David* treasured the Lord as his only "good" (Ps. 16:2), seeing God as His own "portion and cup" (5). So, the Lord made his *inheritance beautiful*, a rare and joy to find "life" in the "presence" of God himself! (11).

For, if you treasure the Lord, He *surrounds you with His steadfast love* to be your Savior (Ps. 17:7)! Valuing you as the "apple of His eye" (8), He now considers you His own. Not only will He share His family love with you, but you will one day awake to behold his "*face*" as you share His very likeness (15)!

So, be strong in this life and fight the Lord's battles, for your Lord is your faithful "rock" to exalt Himself to save you! (Ps. 18:46). For, you are a member of the Lord God's family, headed by the Son of David, Mashiach, and enveloped in His steadfast love!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

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**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>3</sup>: Lord is my portion and cup:** David begins Psalm 16 by telling the Lord, “I have no good apart from you” (2). David realizes that all “good” and his very “life” itself is all from God, so he resolves to make the Lord his “portion and cup” (5), the sustenance, the joy, and the inheritance he hopes for. Honoring the Lord in this way, rather than resorting to the world’s rewards, marks David as a man after God’s own heart!

**Added Notes: Apple of His eye:** If you are the “apple of His eye,” the Lord looks upon you tenderly as one who is most precious to Him. For, to touch you is to touch the very *tender part* of God Himself, incurring God’s quick response and protective salvation!

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## Chapter 4: INSTRUCTIVE LORD: Covenant Friendship

### ***Psalm 19, 25, 27***

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

**a. Preview *Psalm 19, 25, 27***

**Instructive Lord:** Covenant Friendship. When the Lord God calls you by His steadfast love to join the people of His very own possession, He prepares you to be part of His family. So, read Psalms 19, 25, and 27 to see how the Lord Himself will instruct you to live a life pleasing to Him!

First, be ***revived by the Law of the Lord*** to walk in the light of His wisdom and perfection, so that your very words and heart meditations please Him, your redeemer (19:7-14). Then, ***be taught and led in the friendship of the Lord***, for He draws you near in His covenant of steadfast love (25:1-14). Finally, as the Lord draws you ear to Himself in a tender relationship of mutual trust and loyalty, know that you are ***called to seek the Lord's face***. As His servant, the Lord shares with you the secret counsel of His heart (27:4-14)!

**b. Prayerfully Read Psalm 19, 25, 27 and Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b> What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b> What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b> What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. Why does the Lord want to instruct His people?

Q2: How can you please the Lord as His people?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. How can my soul be awakened to hear the Lord and His words? (Psalm 19:7-14)

**1. Revived by the Law of the Lord.** The Law of the Lord has the power to revive your “soul” (Ps. 19:7) because it reveals to you the very *life of God* which He first breathed into our first parents, Adam and Eve. This Law will make your soul awaken to the Lord by *cleansing it* by the *fear of the Lord* (9). The Lord’s commands will *enlighten your eyes* to see the truth in His Word regarding the Lord and His purposes (8). And, as the Lord Himself *testifies to you* of what is true, you will revive as you receive the *wisdom* from God (7).

Q2. How will the Lord relate to me as one of His people? (Psalm 25:1-14)

**2. Taught and led in the friendship of the Lord:** Com. The Lord God revives your soul by His Law, teaching you to *fear the Lord*, so that He might draw near to you in *friendship!* (14). For, the Lord is not interested in casual or careless worshippers. Rather, He draws you into a *covenant relationship with Himself*—permanent; binding; and, mutually committed! So, in this covenantal commitment, the Lord invests in you by *teaching you* His paths upon which you will walk with him; and, *leading you* in His truth (4-5).

Q3 How will the Lord call out to my heart? (Psalm 27:4-14)

**3. Heart called to seek the Lord's face.** When you grow accustomed to the Lord and His friendship, being careful to “walk in His ways” (Ps. 25:4), then you will learn to hear His voice calling to your soul, to the deepest secrets of who you are. And he calls, “Seek my face” (27:8). So, let your *heart* respond to Him, giving Him your heart desires and affections, your tender moments to know Him face-to-face by faith!



**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** *God's Word as a Growing Disciple to read Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.*

**Heart-fellowship with the Lord:** Instructed and Led. When the Lord God calls you into fellowship with Himself, He does not stand far off. Testifying through the glories of the heavens and earth. Rather, the Lord God draws near to you in friendship. You are precious to Him, so He invests His heart and words in you! When the Lord draws near to you, your heart may still be unresponsive and hardened to His call. So, the *Law of the Lord* will revive your soul! (Ps. 19:7) Just as when the Lord God breathed life into the nostrils of our father Adam, the words of His Law breathe into your soul so that you might hear and see His glory! And, changed by the power of His *lawful Word*, you will begin to *fear Him—exalting Him to His highest place and humbling yourself at His service!* (9).

So, as you *honor the Lord by fearing His name*, He draws near to you in the *friendship of fellowship* (Ps. 25:14). Allowing you access to His private thoughts, the Lord *teaches you His ways* and leads you in His truth (4).

In friendship, the Lord will call to your soul, “Seek my face” and your heart will respond, “Your face, Lord, do I seek” (Ps. 27:8) until the day when you finally meet your Lord at His throne, gazing at His *face* that sets creation right!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question   Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
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**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

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**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>4</sup>: Law of the Lord:** The *glory of God expresses the power of His nature*, so the heavens first in their High Rule over the affairs of earth display God's glorious power in creation. However, the Law of the Lord most perfectly reveals the powerful glory of the Lord. For, Gods Word is as *Law*, for it expresses the commanding authority of God's glory to *conform all reality* to His purposes. So, to *bow to the Law* is *purifying* (8), freeing you from sin's domination (13) to transform the words and meditations of your heart! (14)

**Added Notes: Seek my Face:** Although the Lord God inhabits the highest heavens in glory, He amazingly draws near to you if you approach Him by faith. For, by faith, as His Word and Spirit speak to the quiet of your heart, will draw you close as the Lord says to you: "Seek my face"! (8). So, to obey God's call by faith, you will draw near to Him and be bathed in the glory of His presence, as you draw to Him, face-to-face, heart-to-heart. Until you are transformed (Ps. 17:15; 2 Cor. 3:18).

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## Chapter 5: HEART FOR LORD: Desires Fulfilled

### *Psalm 32, 36, 37*

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

**a. Preview Psalm 32, 36, 37**

**Heart for the Lord:** Secured in Steadfast love. You are precious in the Lord's eyes, so He cares deeply about the yearnings of your heart, for it is with your heart that you present yourself first to the Lord! So, read Psalms 32, 36, and 37 to find out how you might cultivate a *heart for the Lord* whose desires are fulfilled in him!

First, know that a ***contrite heart finds Lord's forgiveness.***

Because you are still in the flesh, your heart is yet to be perfected, so you will fall into sin, but see how a contrite heart is open to the Lord's gentle rebuke and instruction to return to him (Ps. 32, 51:10)! So, as you learn to *heed the Lord and follow His ways, your upright heart finds the steadfast love of Lord.* Inexhaustible and *high*, yet His love is near to your heart, to be your precious experience (Ps. 36:5-12). Finally, find that a ***heart delighting in the Lord has its desires fulfilled*** (Ps. 37).

**b. Prayerfully Read Psalm 32, 36, 37 and Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How can you be sure that your *heart is contrite*, even when you sin against God?

Q2: How should you approach the Lord God if He has limitless *steadfast love for you*?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. Why does the Lord want us to have a contrite heart when we sin? (Psalm 32, 51:10)

**1. Contrite heart finds Lord's forgiveness.** Because you are blessed in God's grace, the Lord is quick to forgive you if only you are quick to confess and turn from your sin. The Lord wants to cultivate in you a heart that He can instruct (8). So, He wants your heart to be first *contrite*—which is quick to “acknowledge your sin” to the Lord (5). Contrition bases your relationship with the Lord on honesty and a desire to have a healthy relationship. And, a contrite heart is *yielding* and not stubborn like an ignorant beast. Rather, the Lord wants to counsel you that you listen and change your life to obey Him (8).

Q2. Why should we have an upright heart before the Lord?  
(Psalm 36:6-12)

**2. Upright heart finds the steadfast love of the Lord.** When the Lord finds those who will come to Him with a contrite heart, He is willing to *know them* and get to know them. For, your *contrite* heart means that you are *upright* (10), willing to *receive and be changed by His righteousness!* So, those whom the Lord knows, He shows His steadfast love and great faithfulness! Rather than stooped in sin and hiding from the Lord's presence, walking *upright* means that you will walk with the Lord in confidence!

Q3. Why should I delight in the Lord with my heart? (Psalm 37)

**3. Heart delighting in the Lord has its desires fulfilled.** When you draw near to know the Lord with a contrite and upright heart, you will find Him to be the answer to all of your heart's hopes and desires! For, to *know the Lord* is to be *changed to resemble the Lord*, having your heart renewed as you draw near to delight in the Lord! Living your life as *seen and pleasing to the Lord*, you will discover that the Lord "knows" your days and ways, as you walk in blamelessness. And He gives you an eternal "heritage" (18)!

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

**A Heart to Know the Lord:** Walking with the Lord in Delight.

There are a great many things in this world to know, but the Lord searches the earth for the *fully committed* heart which seeks to *know the Lord* (2 Chronicles 16:9). So, if you want to know the full joy and delight of committing your heart to know the Lord, then learn from Psalms 32, 36, and 37!

If you want a *heart to know the Lord*, then first humble yourself to have a *contrite heart*. For, the Lord longs to *instruct you* in a growing relationship with Himself. For, if your heart is *contrite*, you will be always honest with the Lord, even when you fail and sin against Him. And, to know the Lord is to *walk with Him with an upright heart* in righteousness, for He longs to show you His limitless *steadfast love and faithfulness* (36:10)!

So, if you set your *heart to know the Lord*, then you will choose to *delight* in Him and entrust your *desires* to Him (Ps. 37:4). Then, you will know His vast reward and He reveals Himself to you!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

---

What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

---

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

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Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)



**Notes<sup>5</sup>: Acknowledged my Sin:** Those whose hearts are *hardened by sin* are cut off from God, but the Lord regards those who offer to him a “broken and contrite heart” (Ps. 51:17), for only such a heart is ready to *know the Lord* and to understand His way and instruction (Ps. 32:8).

**Added Notes: Delight in the Lord:** When you choose to *delight yourself in the Lord*, you confess that He is the truly *worthy Lord* whose presence is most delightful and desirous in all the earth! By cultivating a heart that delights in the Lord, you will see the Lord reveal Himself and lavish upon you His limitless *steadfast love, faithfulness, and righteousness!*

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## Chapter 6: HOPE IN HELPLESSNESS: Head of Household

### Psalms 38, 39, 44

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

**a. Preview Psalms 38, 39, 44**

**Hope in Helplessness:** Lord's Deliverance. If you live a righteous life on this earth, you will be *confronted* by all the world's opposition and godless threats. So, read Psalms 38, 39, and 44 to see how your Lord God gives you hope in your feelings of hopelessness in this world!

First, come before the Lord honestly, presenting your ***helpless longing to the Lord for his Salvation***. Though you are in no position to save yourself, the Lord will answer you (Ps. 38; 50:23). Then, consider that your ***mortal hope must only be in Lord***, for our lives our fleeting but the Lord is the One who delivers us. And, this deliverance first starts with our own sin (Ps. 39)! So, we must be steadfast to put ***our only hope is in our God and King, who saves us and comes with fire*** (Ps. 44; 50:3).

**b. Prayerfully Read Psalms 38, 39, 44 and Write your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How do we feel *helpless* in this world, especially as we seek to live a righteous life of faith?

Q2: How does the Lord God give us hope even in our helpless state in this world?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. What should I do when I feel helpless in this world? (Psalm 38; 50:23)

**1. Helpless longing to the Lord for His salvation:** If the Lord is your God, then you are called to live a righteous life of faith. You realize that in the “*flesh*,” there is no “soundness” or ability to deliver you (3). Not only has *the corruption of sin* made you incapable of doing anything “good” to help yourself (4), but you are vulnerable to the *sinful actions* of the world around you! So, in your “feeble” state, be honest and present all your “longings” and “sighing” before the Lord’s altar! (8). In this helpless yet thankful position, you allow the Lord to act! (50:23)

Q2. Why should we hope only in the Lord and not ourselves?  
(Psalm 39)

**2. Mortal hope must only be in the Lord:** In our humbled condition in the *flesh*, we must never place our hope in this *mortal life*, which is “fleeting” (4). Your days on earth are “measured out” by the Lord, and they will certainly “end.” And, our *mortal flesh* is prone to transgress against the Lord (8). So, our hope is only in the “Lord” upon whom we wait (7).

Q3. What is our only hope? Why? (Psalm 44; 50:3)

**3. Our only hope is in God our King who saves:** Family. Though we are weak in this world, and even our own *strength* cannot deliver us (44:3), it is only the Lord God, our King, who has the power to “win the land” for us—that is, our rightful portion in this life. Therefore, we should set our hope only on the Lord and His authority over us as our King. Hope in the Lord, and know that He returns soon to save you! (50:3).

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

**Hope in the Lord:** In this world, you are taught that only the strong survive. But, as the Lord instructs you in His ways, you soon realize that in the *flesh*, we have no strength to rely on, for there is no “soundness” nor “health” in our human condition, which has been corrupted by sin (Ps. 38:3-4). So, we find ourselves *vulnerable* in this world and easily crushed (8).

Yes, you are right to despair of any hope in the *flesh* in this life. But your hope must be in God alone! First, come to the Lord honestly, in the weakness of your flesh. Pour out before His altar all your “longings” (9)—all your desires for good which you are powerless to achieve in your own strength. Then, offer to Him all your “sighing” (9). Your feelings of helplessness, desperation, and disappointment at the unrelenting opposition to you in this world.

For, when you put your *hope* in the Lord, He will certainly “deliver” you (Ps. 39:8), starting first from your *sin and transgressions!* Then, know that your God and King is the one who fights for you, saving you (Ps. 44:3) and winning for you your *land* in this life, your portion on earth and your inheritance in His eternal Kingdom!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

- key verse:

---

What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

---

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>6</sup>: My longing is before you:** When you seek the Lord in honest prayer, you come before Him at His altar. Before Him at His throne, we present our life, our prayers, our praise, and our possessions as pleasing offerings to Him. However, before Him, we also bring Him our “longing” and “sighing” (Ps. 38:9). The deepest unfulfilled desires, the bitterest of hardships in which we struggle, these we bring before the Lord for His mercy.

**Added Notes: Our God comes...before him is devouring fire:** We do not serve a powerless or indifferent God, one who will forever watch us from afar. Rather, our God comes in retributive vengeance, repaying to all. To His faithful saints, who have endured patiently the hardships of this world, the Lord takes up their just cause to give them final relief at His coming. Devouring as fire all that is unrighteous and unworthy of His presence. So, sighing becomes a shout of joy!

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## Chapter 7: LORD OVER NATIONS: Enthroned in Joy

### ***Psalms 46, 47, 48***

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

#### ***a. Preview Psalms 46, 47, 48***

**Lord over Nations:** Enthroned in Joy. The Lord God calls His people to be bold in Him, though all the earth and its peoples clamor with human rage. So, read Psalms 46, 47, and 48 to learn to be still before the Lord as He subdues the kings of the earth and their peoples in order to make His Mount Zion the joy of the whole earth! First, learn to ***be still in the Lord who shelters from warring nations***. For, the Lord of Hosts himself is with us as our *fortress* (Ps. 46). Then, know that the Lord Most High is the only one who deserves to be *feared*, for our ***God reigns as King over Nations***, and one day He will be the one to gather the *princes of the peoples* as His people (Ps. 47). Finally, in the end, ***God's Mount Zion becomes the joy of Earth*** (Ps. 48).

#### ***b. Prayerfully Read Psalms 46, 47, 48 and Write your insights to share***

<b>SEEING</b> What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b> What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b> What lesson can I apply to my life?	



**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How can the people of God rest in the Lord when the Nations rage?

Q2: What is the Lord God's final purpose for earth's nations and their princes?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. How can we live in the midst of warring nations? (Psalm 46)

**1. Be still in the Lord who shelters from warring nations.** In the midst of the *roaring waters* of the tumultuous nations, God is our “refuge” and our “strength” (Ps. 46:1). For, the “rage” of nations (6) do not shake the only one who “makes wars cease” (9) and commands His people to “be still” in their confidence that He alone is “God” (10). Despite human opposition, the Lord God *will be exalted among the nations* and in the earth.

Q2. How does God relate to the nations? What is His plan? (Psalm 47)

**2. God reigns as King over Nations.** Despite the earthly grandeur and power of the nations, God should be the *only power to be feared* (Ps. 47:2). For, God is the “King” of all the earth (7), subduing people and nations for the sake of His own people (3). The very strength of nations, their “shields,” belongs to God Himself, so He is the one to gather the “princes” of people as His own people of Abraham (9).

Q3. How does the Lord God bring peace to the nations in the end? (Psalm 48)

**3. God’s Mount Zion becomes the you of Earth.** In the last days, the Lord God makes Mount Zion, His city, the “joy” of the whole earth (Ps. 48:2)! For, the glory of the Lord’s own mountain panics and disperses the earth’s *assembled kings* (4-5). In those days, the Lord will be praised in all the earth, as His people of Mount Zion rejoice. For, God is known as “our God” through the generations (14).

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to read Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.**

**Lord's Rule over the Nations: Joyful Exaltation of Zion.**

Although you may be shaken by the roaring rage of the nations and their kings, your Lord God commands you, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10)! For, your God has a plan for the nations, and He is the only one to rule over them in peace!

Know that your God is the *King of all the earth* (Ps. 47:7), for His *holy throne* has the power and sway over all the nations (8).

According to His plan, *the princes of the peoples* will one day come together as His very own people, the people of the "God of Abraham."

One day, the Lord God will raise up His *people*, Mount Zion, as His "holy mountain" in all the earth, for in the "city of God" resounds His praise, spreading joy throughout the whole earth (Ps. 48:1-2)! For, the "great King" will rule from Mount Zion, *humbling earth's kings* (6) and revealing from generation to generation that He alone is God! (13-14).

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

---

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>7</sup>: God is the King of all the earth:** Despite raging and rebellious words of earth's kings to this present day, it is the Lord God who *possesses the* "shields of the earth" (Ps. 47:9), the very basis of their rule. For, the Lord God's *holy throne* extends its rule over all the "nations" of the earth, for He is their one true King (7-8).

**Added Notes: Mount Zion:** Mount Zion refers to the city of God, the habitation in which Lord Jesus Mashiach reigns over all the earth. So, this *holy mountain* is raised up over all the mountains of the earth, for it represents the very people of God whom the Lord makes a *joy* in all the earth!

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## Chapter 8: SAVED FROM FOES: Exalting God in Opposition

### ***Psalms 53, 55, 59***

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

#### ***a. Preview Psalms 53, 55, 59***

**Saved from Foes:** Exalting God. The people of the earth have all turned from God, denying Him and falling into a foolish opposition to God and His people. So, read Psalms 53, 55, and 59 to see how the Lord God saves His people so they can exalt His steadfast love, even in the midst of their enemies!

First, see that ***godless evildoers prey upon God's people*** because they have no regard for God. They work evil in ignorance and foolishness, but the Lord works to *restore and sustain his people* (Ps. 53; 54:6-7). So, the ***Godly call on God to redeem souls in safety***. For, even *companions* will turn against the Godly, but the Lord is the only one who is faithful to carry their burdens (Ps. 55:9-23; 56:8). So, the ***Godly exalt God as wait in safety for His steadfast love*** (Ps. 57:5; 59).

#### ***b. Prayerfully Psalms 53, 55, 59 and Write your insights to share***

<b>SEEING</b> What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b> What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b> What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. Why should the Godly not put their trust in the people of this world, even those who appear to be friendly?

Q2: How will the Lord God work in the lives of His Godly ones amidst the treachery of this world?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1 How should the Godly expect to be treated in this world? (Psalm 53; 54:6-7)

**1. Godless evildoers' prey upon God's people.** When the people of this world deny God in their godlessness, they become "fools" in their hearts (Ps. 53:1). In their *folly*, they are incapable of doing any "good" that would please God and lead to life. So, the godless work "evil" without the knowledge of God, *consuming* the people of God and all that they have in their folly. But the Lord is the one to *restore* the portion of the Godly (6), despite the threat of the ungodly.

Q2. How should the Godly respond to the threats of this world?  
(Psalm 55:9-23; 56:8)

**2. Godly call on God redeem their souls in safety.** Because the *ungodly* people of this world opposed God and His people, they attack the people of God, even if they appear to be *friendly* (12-13). So, the Godly suffer loss at the hands of the ungodly. But, God “redeems” their souls (15) to deliver them from threat to safety. For, the Lord calls you to “cast your burden” upon Him that He might give you relief (22).

Q3. What does God’s steadfast love and salvation allow the Godly to do? (Psalm 57:5, 59)

**3. Godly exalt God as wait in safety for His steadfast love.** In His steadfast love, the Lord God gives the righteous victory over their enemies (Ps. 59:10), for He not only protects them as a fortress but he also *delivers out of their hand* (1). For, the Lord reveals His steadfast love through His protection and deliverance, so that His people are free to praise Him (10) and rejoice in His “steadfast love” (17)!



**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.**

**Delivered from Enemies: God's Steadfast Love.** When the Lord God calls you to be His own, you now experience with Him the opposition of the ungodly who live as if “there is no God” (Ps. 53:1). In their self-imposed delusion, they deny God because they want to live in unrestrained *corruption*.

And, in their rebellion against God, they will seek to “*eat up*” the people of God as if we are mere “bread” to satisfy their own *sinful appetite* (4).

But, *know that your God delivers you from their hand!* For, the Lord is your salvation, and He will “restore” your rightful portion (6).

And, as this world enslaves you and takes your life, the Lord God will “redeem your soul in safety” (Ps. 56:18), replacing this world's *enslavement* with His freedom and deliverance!

So, as your faithful God delivers you by His steadfast love, be sure to “sing aloud” and praise Him who is your Strength! (Ps. 59:17).

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question   Differ
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

---

What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

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What is a key idea?

- key verse:

---

What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

---

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>8</sup>: Foolish Godlessness:** The people of this earth who have fallen and strayed from God live in the delusion that “there is no God” (Ps. 53:1). Convincing them of this most *fundamental lie*, they are “foolish” in heart. And, this foolishness leads to *corruption* and every evil deed against the people of God!

**Added Notes: Redeemed Soul:** The world and its ungodly “fools” (Ps. 53:1) conspire to consume the “souls” of the Godly—to swallow them up and jealously deprive them of the life and portion God has prepared for them. So, the Lord God himself redeems their “souls” so that they have the integrity and wholeness to praise the Lord for His steadfast love!

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## Chapter 9: DESIRING GOD: Soul Seeks Lord

### ***Psalms 63***

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself then **Write** *Insights to Share* with others.

#### **a. Preview *Psalms 63***

**Desiring God:** Soul Seeks Lord. Your soul was made for life, and your God is the only source of life that will satisfy its deepest thirst! So, read Psalm 63 to discover how David satisfied the desire of His soul in the Lord God, so you can find the same satisfaction!

*First, see that the **seeking soul is satisfied in Lord alone**.* Your soul is the *deepest part of your Self*, designed to come alive only by the breath and presence of God Himself. So, it is only satisfied in the life of God (Ps. 63:1-4). Then, see how the **dependent soul clings to the Lord for sustenance** by continually seeking the Lord for His help (5-8). Finally, the **joyful soul rejoices in God's anointing**, *for David rules as king by the affirmation of God alone*. Even so, the Lord strengthens you to fulfill all his purposes for you (9-11)!

#### **b. Prayerfully *Read Psalms 63* and **Write** your insights to share**

<b>SEEING</b>  What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b>  What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b>  What lesson can I apply to my life?	

**Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints.** *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. How do we see David seeking the Lord?

Q2: Why does David say that His soul is satisfied?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples.** *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. What satisfies the soul of the worshipper? (Psalm 63:1-4)

**1. Seeking soul is satisfied in Lord alone.** Worshipers like King David have a deep devotion and loyalty to “their God” (1), and this deep desire for their God drives them hungrily into His presence. They are not apathetic or self-satisfied. Rather, they realize that *their God alone* is the one to satisfy their deepest *soul-need*. So, seeking the Lord is like “thirsting” and “fainting” for God and the life which He alone can give.

Q2. What sustains the worshipper's soul? (Ps. 3:5-8)

**2. Dependent soul clings to the Lord for sustenance:** Com.

While the souls of the people of this earth hunger and seek a world full of idols, the worshipper of the Most High God cling to their God alone for the strength He gives. They cling with a stubborn devotion to Him, knowing that the Lord will tenderly “uphold” them with His “right hand,” showing them the preference and the priority of his precious and holy people!

Q3. How does God affirm the worshipper? (Psalm 63:9-11)

**3. Joyful soul rejoices in God's anointing.** God abandons those who seek to *destroy* the lives of His people, letting them sink to the “depths” of the earth to be devoured by rabid animals (9). But He draws the true worshipper near to Himself, first establishing David as His King and then anointing His people with the affirming call of His Spirit!

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

**Desiring God Alone: Hungry Seeking.** Your soul thirst for the very presence of God Himself, for from the very beginning, we were *living souls* breathing in the very breath of God as our life. So, seek God with a soul thirsting for God's presence, for there is no other source of life in all this dry earth.

For, when you come into the Lord's *sanctuary* to meet with Him, you will behold His *power and glory* (63:2). And, you will sing for joy as you know His *steadfast love* and its exceeding richness!

Your God is not a *strange God that* stands aloof and far off. Rather, He is the satisfying richness for your soul, filling your lips with joyful praise (5) and the comforting help to which your soul clings (8).

So, draw near to God, who affirms His blessing upon you like the royal crown that made David king!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

---

What is a key idea?

- key verse:

---

What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

---

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)



**Notes<sup>9</sup>: Satisfied Soul:** Your soul is designed to be alive both bodily and spiritually, being fed by the very breath and presence of God (Gen. 2:7) as *hai nefesh*, a living soul. But we live only as *naked flesh* without God's spirit following the sin of our first parents. So, seek the Lord for your soul's full satisfaction!

**Added Notes: Earnestly I seek you:** Worshippers seek God for any number of reasons. For religious *obligation*, for personal affirmation, or for social standing. But David sought the Lord hungrily, for his very life depended on meeting and clinging to God!

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## Chapter 10: WORLDWIDE PRAISE: Lord's Coming Rule

### ***Psalms 66, 67, 68***

**Step 1. Discover:** *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

#### ***a. Preview Psalms 66, 67, 68***

**Worldwide Praise:** Lord's coming rule. The Lord God allows His people to be tested in this godless and hostile world, that they might maintain their faithful witness of the Lord *steadfast love!* So, read Psalms 66, 67, and 68 to see how the confirms their witness at His return, causing the entire earth to break out in joyful worship and fruitfulness!

First, see that *the faithful witness of God's people draws all the earth into joyful worship of God!* God's people are not tested in vain, for they have maintained their testimony of God's steadfast love and salvation even as the whole world turned against them (Psalm 66)! Then, discover that *when God and his judgments are known, the nations sing for joy and bear fruit in the fear of God!* (Psalm 67). Finally, see that *the Lord dwells among and exalts His people, the needy and weak, to scatter their enemies!* (Psalm 68).

*b. Prayerfully **Read Psalms 66, 67, 68** and **Write** your insights to share*

<b>SEEING</b> What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
<b>LEARNING</b> What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
<b>DOING</b> What lesson can I apply to my life?	

***Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.***

Q1. How does the tested witness of God’s people lead to the worldwide worship that breaks out at God’s return?

Q2: Why is God exalted in His people at His return?

**Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.**

Q1 What is the result of the faithful witness of God's people? (Psalm 66)

**1. Faithful witness draws all the earth into joyful worship of**

**God.** In this current age, the Lord God tests His people in this ungodly world (10-12), letting their enemies *abuse and oppress* them. But, by the Lord's mercy, His people still faithfully *offered themselves* to the Lord and witnessed of His steadfast love, even when their lives were threatened. So, the Lord confirms their faithful witness by His coming, showing the nations that He is indeed loving and merciful!

Q2. How do the nations respond to God and His judgments when they are revealed? (Psalm 67)

**2. God and His judgments are known:** Nations sing joyfully and bear fruit in fear of God. Starting with humanity's original rebellion, the people of earth and their nations have *not dishonored God* and lived in the delusion that He did not exist. However, at His coming, the Lord reveals Himself and His irresistible judgment—so, the nations learn to “fear the Lord” (Ps. 57:7). But, once they repent, the nations discover the joy of praising the Lord and experiencing His fruitful blessing!

Q3. What does the Lord do for His needy and weak people?  
(Psalm 68)

**3. Lord dwells among and exalts his needy and weak people to scatter their enemies:** When the Lord God “arises” to “summon His power,” (Ps. 68:1, 28), He first lifts up the oppressed and overlooked of His people. So, He shows His mercy to the “fatherless” (5) and “solitary” (6), even letting His *company of women* proclaim His glory (11) as He scatters their foes. For, when He dwells and exalts His people among all the nations of the earth, He humbles earth’s people and reveals His steadfast love for all generations!

**Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply** God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

**Faithful Witness and Worldwide Harvest:** Lord's mercy: As a witness of the Lord your God, you may feel at times that your testimony is lost in this dark and godless world! You *have* endured suffering as the godless people of this world have scorned you, as they have scorned your God. Only by God's grace has your life been preserved on this earth!

But, know that God's future plans for the world involve your endurance and testimony of the Lord's steadfast love! For, the Lord God will soon confirm your word to prove the whole world wrong, at His coming. If not for your *testimony*, the people of this earth could have pleaded ignorance, but now they have no excuse.

For, the Lord soon *arises* to reveal His glorious presence and righteous judgments to this rebellious world. Affirming His love for you, as He lifts up His people as the Mountain of His presence!

Then, at once, the people of the earth will shift from *open rebellion* to the fear of the Lord, as His praise spreads like fire throughout the earth! And, the Lord will be glorified through you as your humility turns to glory!

<b>Respond to Devotional:</b> (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question
<b>SUPPORT: Agree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>add</b> ?	
<b>QUESTION: Modify</b> What to <b>question</b> or change?	
<b>DIFFER: Disagree</b> What insight or Bible verse to <b>differ</b> ?	

**Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:**

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

---

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- key verse:

---

What is a key idea?

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---

What is a key idea?

**Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:**

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

---

Key lesson to learn?

---

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

**Notes<sup>10</sup>: All the Earth worships you:** The prophet Habbakuk proclaims that the earth will be filled with the *knowledge* of the glory of God as the waters cover the seas (2:14)—that is, completely. For, the Lord will rule in His holy mount Zion, exalting His downtrodden people as His favored ones throughout all the earth, that its people may humbly rejoice before the Lord!

**Added Notes: Let all the earth fear Him:** When the people of this earth first fell into *unbelief* and *sin* by denying the ascendancy and holiness of God, they have lived as “fools” to deny His relevance in this earthly realm, claiming, “There is no God” (Ps. 53:1). But, on the Day the Lord returns to reveal His power through His Mashiach, the people of this earth will learn to “fear the Lord” in a moment, as His presence and power of His judgments are known throughout the earth! Then, the faithful witness of His people will be finally vindicated!

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**Prayer Requests:**

Prayer Request/ Date	Answered Prayer/ Thanks

**Journaling:**

What is God teaching you?	How are you growing?

**Sermon Notes:**

Sermon Notes/ Date	Applying it to my life

**Notes:**