

The King's Journal

Fall 2024 Teaching Series - Outline

1. **When You Don't Know Where to Start - Sept 15 - Psalm 1-2**
 - a. How do **Psalm 1-2** serve as an introduction to the collection of Psalms? Do you notice two predominant themes?
 - b. Did you know that The Psalms are divided into five books? What is similar about the final verses of each section? **Read Psalm 41:13; 72:19; 89:52; 106:48; 150:6**. What is the significance of these repeated themes?
 - c. Consider the overarching theme of each of the five books - This will require some research. Based on these themes, what is the storyline of Psalms?
2. **When You're Broken & Betrayed - Sept 22 - Psalm 41**
 - a. Compare who David believes God to be in **Psalm 41:1-3**, and the treatment he is experiencing in **Psalm 41:5-9**. Why does he declare the truth of who God is before he expresses lament about his failing body and the broken world around him?
 - b. Read **Psalm 41:4**. Why is David's humble confession important when considering his brokenness and betrayal?
 - c. Read **Psalm 41:9**. Consider the betrayal of David's son Absalom in **2 Samuel 15:1-15**. What would such a close betrayal feel like?
 - d. Why is it important to be honest about our brokenness?
3. **When God Seems Distant - Sept 29 - Psalm 42**
 - a. Who wrote this Psalm? Who is Korah? Read **Numbers 16:1-5; 26:9-11**. How does this impact the way you read this Psalm?
 - b. You've likely read **Psalm 42:1-2** before, or at least heard it sung. What does the picture communicate about the Psalmists' desire for God?
 - c. Obviously the Psalmists have a *past* to look back on, but what is the key memory they recall in **Psalm 42:4**? Is it possible to get hung up in the *good ol' days* and neglect to see how God is at work in your life now?
 - d. There is a lot of lamenting about the current situation, but where do the Psalmists call their attention to in **Psalm 42:5,11**? How can we practice *hope in God* at all times?
4. **When Following God is Difficult - October 6 - Psalm 69**
 - a. Consider the hopeless situation David is describing in **Psalm 69:1-3**. What about the treatment he is receiving in **Psalm 69:4,9-12,20,21**? Does David take responsibility for these struggles in **Psalm 69:5-9**? How have you experienced the difficulty of following God in a world that does not?
 - b. Why does David ask for God's saving faithfulness at *an acceptable time* in **Psalm 69:13**, but ask Him to *make haste to answer* in **Psalm 69:17**? Is this a contradiction?
 - c. If David has not yet been relieved of this difficulty, how can he end with praise in **Psalm 69:30-36**? Is he thanking God for a salvation yet to come?
5. **When the Mind and the Heart Disagree - October 13 - Psalm 89**
 - a. The Psalmist, *Ethan*, draws attention to God's covenant with David in **Psalm 89:20-37**. What are some of the general promises of God in scripture that you know and love?
 - b. In **Psalm 89:38-45**, Ethan expresses what seem like broken promises to David. How can this be? Did God break His Covenant with David?
 - c. Note Ethan's humility in **Psalm 89:47-48**. The Psalmist is struggling to reconcile the truth of scripture and the experience of circumstance. Do you ever have difficulty embracing the truth you know in the midst of the pain you feel? What do you do when you're struggling to believe in your heart what you know to be true in your mind?
 - d. How can this Psalm end with *Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen*?

6. **When We're Far From Home - October 20 - Psalm 90**
 - a. **Psalm 90** is a prayer of Moses. Take a moment to discuss what you know of Moses' story from scripture.
 - b. **Psalm 90** also marks the beginning of book four in the collection of Psalms. Many of the Psalms in book four draw attention to the Exile in Babylon. How would the story of Moses have significance to God's people as they were led away captive?
 - c. Moses declares in **Psalm 90:1** that the *Lord has been our dwelling place*. It's interesting that this prayer is placed in book four as the people are losing their home and being ushered into a strange country. How do we rest in God when we're pulled from the comforts of home? Consider this as you read **Psalm 90:1-17**.
7. **When We're Together - October 27 - Psalm 100**
 - a. Read **Psalm 100:1-5**. Why is the Psalmist writing in plural form using the terms *we* and *us*?
 - b. What is your favourite part of gathering with your church family for Celebration Sundays? What should be some of the key aspects of these gatherings?
 - c. What do you think about the role of singing (**v.2**), joyful noise (**v.1**), and praise (**v.4**) in the gathering of God's people? How could these be tools to express God's working in your life?
8. **When God Says YES - November 3 - Psalm 106-107**
 - a. The Psalmist walks through some of Israel's history in **Psalm 106:1-43**. From slavery in Egypt, to the wilderness wanderings, and their failings in the Promised Land. After all of this, how did God respond to His people? Consider **Psalm 106:44-46**.
 - b. **Psalm 106** and **107** mark the end of book four and the beginning of book five in the collection of Psalms. How does the prayer in **Psalm 106:47** relate to the theme of exile in book four? What are the people asking of God? How did God answer this prayer? Read **Psalm 107:1-3**.
 - c. Take some time to share the ways in which God has answered prayer in your life.
9. **When Things Line Up - November 10 - Psalm 119**
 - a. Take a moment to glance over **Psalm 119**. With 176 verses, it is the longest Psalm and the longest chapter in the Bible. It's divided into 22 sections which correspond with the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each section is composed of 8 verses, and every line of each verse begins with the Hebrew letter to which its section is titled. Why do you think someone would go through so much effort to produce such a curiously organized Psalm?
 - b. What is the repetitious theme of each verse? How does this theme tie in with other Wisdom Psalms? Consider **Psalm 1:1-2; 14:1-2; 37:30-31; 128:1**.
 - c. In light of the immense organization and the theme of *living according to God's commands*, is the Psalmist presenting a way in which to order our lives? How are you actively aligning your life according to God's Word?
10. **When We Can't Help But Say Thank You - November 17 - Psalm 145-150**
 - a. Why is a Psalm of David featured toward the end of the collection in **Psalm 145**? Don't we read in **Psalm 72:20** that *the prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended*? Could part of the answer be found in **Psalm 145:4-7, 21**?
 - b. Let's talk about some reasons to praise God. Consider His attributes in Psalm **145:8-9,17**. How does He treat people in **Psalm 146:7-9**? What happened to the exiles according to **Psalm 147:2,3,12-14**? What does **Psalm 147:7-9** say about simple necessities like food? What about God's glory in creation as shown in **Psalm 148**?
 - c. Count how many times the term *praise* is used in **Psalm 150**. *Praise the LORD* in Hebrew is *Hallelujah!* Do you have as many reasons as the Psalmist to sing Hallelujah?