



**THE
BIBLE
PROJECT_**
2020

Devotional

April 12 - June 27

suffering exists in the world (which is called the question of theodicy). God chastises the three friends of Job for saying things wrong about God. God honors Job for his suffering, his honesty, and his prayer.

The Psalms are a form of poetic discourse between Israel and God. They vary from prayers and praise to the deepest pain and distress. The first 12 Psalms vary in themes from songs of praise of God's power and justice to gratitude for deliverance illness, persecutors, and enemies.

Prayer thought for this week: The mystery of how to reconcile a loving, omnipotent, and all knowing God with suffering in the world remains. Have you experienced a spiritual struggle similar to that of Job? Do the Psalms offer solace in times of pain and suffering or words of praise in times of joy?

WEEK FOUR (MAY 3–9)

Day 124: May 3, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 13:1–16:11

Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 1:1–6

Psalm 13 - There cannot be rebirth without lament. Lament honors life, and takes love and truth seriously. It acknowledges loss, so that we can then trust in God's faithful love into the future. In what ways are you lamenting today?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 125: May 4, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 17:1–20:9

Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 2:1–12

A connecting thread among all the Psalms in today's reading is the grateful recognition that everything one has in life is a gift from God. Every achievement, possession, and experience comes from a generous, loving God. How is that true in your life? How will you express your gratitude to God today?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 126: May 5, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 21:1–24:10

Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 3:1–8

Before the classic 23rd Psalm, there is Psalm 22, a psalm of longing and suffering. Sometimes you have to go through the longing before you can get to assurance. And it's followed by Psalm 24, in which one enters the glorious presence of God.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 127: May 6, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 25:1–28:9

Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 15:1–5

The Psalmist consistently remembers that we are not self-sufficient. We need God for everything. To conquer our inner turmoil, to make peace with our enemies, and to overcome sin. This requires humility, repentance, and a desire to follow God.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 128: May 7, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 29:1–32:11

Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 23:1–6

Each Psalm holds two ideas in tension: I am lost and hurting; God is faithful and is with me. It is possible to experience both the dark and the light, for each outlines the other. “God, where are you?” is met with “God is always here.”

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 129: May 8, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 33:1–36:12

Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 24:1–10

Psalm 34 shows David's heart as he faked being crazy to hide his true identity from others. Despite the outward roles you play for others to see, what is in your heart? Does your heart trust and praise God, or is it turned inward upon yourself?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 130: May 9, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 37:1–41:13

Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 41:1–13

Humility ties these texts together. We are called to trust (Ps 37), repent (Ps 38), embrace life's brevity (Ps 39), wait patiently (Ps 40), and care for the poor (Ps 41). How well is humility expressed in your life in these areas?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

May 3–9, 2020: Weekly Devotion by Amy Kerr

What a great comfort many of the verses in Book 1 of Psalms offers us. We are reminded repeatedly of God’s love for us, and that by trusting in him we can find comfort, guidance, and relief from our troubles and our enemies.

In the midst of a bad day, receiving news that a loved one is sick, failing where we believe we should be succeeding or in the darkest of our days, it can be easy to feel alone, defeated, and beaten down. Despite our despair and sin, we can retreat into meditation and prayer and know that God is with us in those dark times and is there for us to lean on. He sees us when we are whole or broken, he knows when we are weak and need to be nourished. He refreshes us, leads us, provides for us. He shows us when we need rest.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.” (Ps 23:1-3, NIV).

The imagery of God being our shepherd and providing all that we could ever need is so vivid to me in this passage. I can picture God leading me when I am weak and trying to push through a difficult time, working too hard, or focusing my energy in the wrong ways. The idea of him helping me find a quiet place to rest brings comfort to my soul. I invite you to try to picture this scene, close your eyes, and spend a few minutes in prayer and meditation. Perhaps you will find it refreshes your soul as well!

Prayer: God, whether I am going through the best of times or the

worst of times remind me that you are always by my side and that you are my shepherd. Open my heart to follow the path that you have laid out for me and refresh my soul so that I may feel whole with the power of your love. Amen

WEEK FIVE (MAY 10–16)

Day 131: May 10, 2020

Full Plan: Psalms 42:1–45:17

Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 42:1–11

Psalm 42 reveals the heart at its most honest and vulnerable. It gives us permission to acknowledge our downcast soul, our doubts, and the pressures of those who don't believe in God. But it never gives up hope. What meaning does Psalm 42 bring you today?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life: