



# Devotional

April 12 - June 27

The victory is the Lord's.

**Prayer focus:** Write down several ways that God has acted for you or delivered you from a difficulty. What victories in your life belong to God? What difficulties are you going through now that you want to shout to God, "Why do you sleep, O Lord?"

## **WEEK SEVEN (MAY 24–30)**

**Day 145: May 24, 2020**

**Full Plan: Psalms 102:1–104:35**

**Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 119:41–88**

These Psalms draw a contrast between our finite mortality and the everlasting grandeur of God. Remember that whatever sags your soul is temporary. Once you are drawn into an awareness of God's mighty love & power, all your troubles will seem small and temporary.

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

**Day 146: May 25, 2020**

**Full Plan: Psalms 105:1–107:43**

**Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 119:89–136**

There are four stories of people who need God in Psalm 107: those experiencing desert, darkness, sinfulness, and storms. In each instance, we can give thanks, for God shows steadfast love and wonderful works. Which of those stories do you resonate with today?

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

**Day 147: May 26, 2020**

**Full Plan: Psalms 108:1–112:10**

**Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 119:137–176**

Psalm 112 returns to the themes in Psalm 1. The blessed life follows God's commandments, does justice, cares for the poor, is generous, lives without fear, and has a steady heart. The wicked life is the opposite. Choose the blessed life.

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

**Day 148: May 27, 2020**

**Full Plan: Psalms 113:1–118:29**

**Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 132:1–18**

These Psalms today remind us that in times of distress, we can find in God refuge and strength (Ps 118) as well as rest (Ps 116). Even when others (or even when we) question the existence of God, “The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever.” We are not alive forever. That is scary but also liberating. Savor each moment, but don’t grip it too tightly. Let the river of life carry you, rather than trying to control it. Feel God’s presence, power, & protection, and give thanks often.

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

**Day 149: May 28, 2020**

**Full Plan: Psalms 119:1–88**

**Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 145:1–21**

The words heart, soul, lips, eyes, and mouth are recurring throughout Psalm 119. It’s a reminder that following God should involve our whole being. Not just our minds, but our whole selves.

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

**Day 150: May 29, 2020**

**Full Plan: Psalms 119:89–176**

**Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 146:1–10**

Psalm 119 reminds us that reading the scriptures, particularly its commands, need not be dreary or threatening. It can also be a gateway to joy, life, and contentment. As long as we bring to it a spirit of expectation. How will you live with that kind of expectation today?

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

**Day 151: May 30, 2020**

**Full Plan: Psalms 120:1–126:6**

**Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 147:1–20**

These Psalms were sung as worshippers ascended the Temple mountain. They prepared themselves for worship with prayers for deliverance and assurance, and shouts of praise. How might God's people prepare for worship in that way today?

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

## **May 24–30, 2020: Weekly Devotional by Joanie Mellen**

This week's readings begin with the close of Book 4 of Psalms, 102 through 106, and ends with the 5th Book of Psalms, 107-126. It is a combination of praise and lament, faith and hope, and closes with poems of Ascent.

A common theme is one of assurance of God's love for us, even as we express our pain and sorrow.

### ***Psalms 106:1***

*Praise the Lord!*

*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.*

**Psalms 119** is the longest with 176 verses. It is an alphabet song, with each section beginning with a letter from the Hebrew alphabet. It gives praise of the Torah's teachings as God's Word, a gift to his people. A favorite verse is **119:66**, "*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*", made popular in a song by Amy Grant.

One of my favorites is **Psalms 121**. I was in South Africa accompanying a chaplain to a remote Zulu village to check on a recently ill woman. We entered her single room dwelling and greeted her as she sat on her bed. She was feeling much better and patted the bed next to her for us to sit down. She told us she had prayed Psalm 121 over and over while she was recovering. She wanted to read it to us now in thanksgiving. I looked out the front door opening, the only view from her tiny home. The beautiful

African hills above the village were the only thing any of us could see as she read.

***Psalms 121:1-2** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth...*

Tears filled my eyes as she continued reading with such gratitude for her return of health. She read the last verse twice. **Psalms 121:8** “*The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*” I was overwhelmed by her faith and belief in God’s steadfast love.

**Prayer:** I give thanks for the blessings I receive when in the presence of those who’s faith in God’s love and hope is expressed. They give witness to our risen Christ.

## **WEEK EIGHT (MAY 31–JUNE 6)**

**Day 152: May 31, 2020**

**Full Plan: Psalms 127:1–130:8**

**Abbreviated Plan: Psalms 148:1–14**

The Psalms remind us to trust, wait, hope, and long for God, when we don’t know how things will turn out. (Ps 130) But it also reminds us of what we can do: build our efforts and our hearts on God’s desires. (Ps 127-128) What will you do those things today?

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