

Women's Bible Study
Discussion Questions



Psalm 19

1. According to vs. 1-6, what inspiring truths about God does creation reveal?
2. In this psalm the terms *law*, *statutes*, *precepts*, *commands* and *ordinances* are used to describe God's Word. How are the scriptures described in vs. 7-11? From which of these effects have you benefited personally?
3. The psalmist describes how encounter with God through nature and the Scriptures has affected him in vs. 12-14. How has encountering God changed him? To which of these can you most relate?
4. Describe in your own words the two parts of prayer mentioned in v. 14. How has this psalm offered insight and comfort in the midst as you live the Christian life?
5. Ask God to make his Word alive and active in you this coming week. Pray that he will help you share Scripture with someone, either directly or through actions. Come prepared to share with your small group next week.

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Psalms 42 and 43

1. Read Psalm 42 and 43 together and then describe the psalmist's situation. What does he request? How does Psalm 43 continue and complete the theme begun in Psalm 42?
2. Consider the image of the thirsty deer and the flowing stream. What circumstances do they depict? Describe a time in your life when you have had the same desire. How was that need met?
3. Psalm 42:5 and 11 and 43:5 form a refrain for this psalm. List in your own words the key thoughts of this refrain. How can they help you in the midst of spiritual depression?
4. Describe in your own words the past spiritual experience of the writer of Psalm 42. What specific lessons about the Christian life can we learn from his past and present experience? In what/whom can the believer place his trust in the midst of persecution?
5. What circumstances tend to make you depressed? Choose one. What specific things did you talk with God and others about in your despair? Based on the lessons of psalms 42 and 43, what specific steps can you take to cope with your depression? Consider asking a friend to pray with you about this.

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Psalm 34

This psalm is written in response to the events of Samuel 21:1-22:5 when David feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away. Read the passage for context.

1. List the specific words and phrases in vs. 1-10 that express David's feelings for God. What are these feelings and in what ways do they/don't they reflect your experience of God?
2. List the specifics of David's counsel in vs. 11-14. Define in your own words what "fear of the Lord" is. Why does David begin his advice with this admonition?
3. What confidence (shown in vs. 15-22) does David show in God in the midst of trouble? In what specific ways has God been a strength to you in the midst of trouble?
4. Based on vs. 11-22, write your own description of a righteous person. Pick one characteristic that especially pleases you. What one step can you take this week to make that quality part of your life?
5. Although Psalm 34 celebrates God's protection, nowhere in the psalm does David guarantee that the righteous person will have a trouble-free life. What assurances does the psalm make that God will comfort the righteous in the midst of their pain? How have you experienced that comfort in your own life? Write out a short prayer praising God for that deliverance.

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Psalm 98

1. The psalm can be divided into three stanzas: vs. 1-3, vs. 4-6, and vs. 7-9. Summarize in your own words the theme of each stanza.
2. What specific "wonderful things" does the psalmist celebrate in vs. 1-3?
3. What response to God's marvelous works is called for in vs. 4-6? List the types of festive celebration that are suggested.
4. The call to praise expands to include all of nature in the psalm's closing stanza. List the specific parts of creation that join in the celebration and describe how they offer praise. Describe in your own words how the "new song" of psalm 98 progresses from the beginning of the psalm to the end.
5. What future event does the psalmist anticipate in v. 9? Take a moment to write your own praise prayer, thanking God for his past, present, and future involvement in your life.

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Psalm 77

1. How do you respond when hard times come? What questions come to your mind and to whom do you go with them?
2. After reading vs. 7-9, list the characteristics of God that are brought into question. What truths about God does Asaph bring up in vs. 11-15?
3. In vs. 11-15, the psalmist "remembers," "meditates," and "muses" four times. Why does remembering what God has done in our lives help us to focus on what is true about him?
4. Name one or two specific ways that you can record and remember the ways in which God has answered your prayers, protected you, and acted on your behalf.
5. List the attributes and actions of God listed in vs. 13-20. What do these verses teach you about God? In what specific ways does meditating on these truths build your faith?

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Psalm 73

1. How are the wicked described in vs. 1-12? What about their lives does the psalmist envy? In what way(s) do you identify with his envious thoughts?
2. Describe in your own words the doubts expressed in vs. 2-12.
3. Verses 16-20 are the turning point in the psalmist's struggle. The key word is the word "till" in v. 17. Describe in your own words what happens in the psalmist's heart when he enters the sanctuary. What turns his struggle around?
4. List some of the truths that the psalmist repeats to himself in vs. 23-28. Which of these thoughts would be most helpful to you to re-gain God's perspective in the midst of doubts?
5. This psalm chronicles one believer's struggle in his walk with God. Can you remember a time when your struggles escalated to the point where they put your faith at risk? Describe in your own words how God brought you back or is currently in the midst of bringing you back?

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Psalm 91

1. The theme of this psalm is the security of a life lived under God's protection. The psalm is organized into 2 stanzas: vs. 1-8 and vs. 9-16. What theme do you find in the opening lines (vs. 1-2 and vs. 9-10) of both stanzas.
2. According to vs. 5-8, why does the psalmist feel secure from danger?
3. Based on this passage, would you say that the believer is protected *from* danger and sorrow or protected *in the midst* of hard times? Cite the verses that support your answer. Why is the distinction between the two situations an important one?
4. According to vs. 9-12 and vs. 14-15, what gives the psalmist confidence that he has a secure refuge?
5. Whatever life circumstances cause you to feel insecure, God calls you to tell him your need and put your faith in him. In what specific ways can you make him your refuge and dwelling place as you persevere through hard times?