

PSALMS: Week 7 – Wrestling with Enemies

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

Psalms 91 gives us practical advice on how to live. It teaches that if we live according to the Word of God, we will experience some positive and powerful blessings. The psalmist is inviting us to place our confidence and trust in God, who alone is able to provide us protection and security void of fear. Yet, even though God offers us this refuge and fortress, we must willingly respond to His invitation.

Tell the story – Psalm 91 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God desires for us to abide in a personal relationship with Him; God is our Deliverer from the penalty of sin; God is our perfect refuge; God is faithful to us; God's perfect love casts out all fear (1 John 4:18); God is all-powerful; God will judge the wicked; God often uses His angels to protect us; God hears us when we pray; God doesn't promise us a trouble-free life; God is a present help in time of trouble (Psalm 46:1); God is bigger than our fears; etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I have to make abiding in Christ a priority of my life; I am often tempted to place my trust in people or things other than Almighty God; when I face difficulty or don't feel in control of a situation, my first response is fear; I can make bad choices based upon poor judgment; I can let my fears control me; I forget that God is my shield and my protection; I must constantly be vigilant against the schemes of the enemy; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. What types of situations currently cause you fear and anxiety? What does the world offer as an escape from the pressure that this fear and anxiety bring to us?
2. Describe what it looks like for you to run to God and find refuge/protection in Him?

Assign next week's passage – Psalm 137 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

PSALMS: Week 7 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

The background for the story sets the scene for the person telling the story, and gives the group a way to know what is happening. Having the background available also enables us to put the “big picture” together in our minds as we see the stories fit together as a whole.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

As we lead, our goal is to equip others to be leaders. We want to equip others not to just become Grow Group leaders, but leaders in whatever area God has called them, whether inside or outside the church. To encourage others to lead, we must cast vision, and give the “why” behind the “what.” Encourage them to say “yes” when asked to lead. Give them reasons why saying “yes” to God is always a great answer. You can point out that when we lead, we grow in our faith in Christ. We also have the opportunity to give of ourselves, gain an even greater ability to articulate our beliefs, and obviously impact others with the love of God. God has given us gifts to use for His glory. To be good stewards of these gifts, our “yes” must consistently be on the table.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

Favoritism is a very comfortable sin that we must constantly fight. Favoritism comes up as we value one person over another usually because of what they can do for us. We decide who is worthy of our time based on how we may benefit from their relationship. We can even fall into the trap of not helping someone because we falsely conclude they deserve their hardship because of their bad choices. The sin of favoritism causes us to have a nearly instantaneous judgment of a person’s worth. When we show favoritism, we have judged a person solely at face value without seeing the individual as God does.

Christ has called us to live differently. The “royal law,” as James describes, calls us to love one another as we love ourselves. We ought to be characterized as “grace givers” in how we interact with all people. In doing this, we reflect the character of God, who shows us mercy rather than the judgment we deserve.

Read James 2 and reflect upon the following:

- ☐ What is one way that you justify including some and excluding others (favoritism)?
What are some changes that you need to make for the future?