

# **Bible Study on Psalms**

## **Individual Praise Psalms – The Privilege of Giving Thanks**

These psalms extol God for his power, strength, salvation, rescue, and goodness.

A few psalms that fit into this category are Psalms 23, 30, 32, 118.

### **Psalm 23**

Read Psalm 23 and work through these questions.

In the ancient Near East and in Israel, the word shepherd was widely used as a synonym for the word king.

1. In John 10, Jesus calls himself “the Good Shepherd.” Reflect on verse of Psalm 23. Where – specifically – do you see Jesus in this psalm? Give as many points of comparison as you can.
2. What evidence do you see in Psalm 23 that the good things that happen to you are not merely chance or coincidence, but are instead blessings given to you by God?
3. What were uses of the shepherd’s rod and staff?
4. What makes death only a shadow for true believers?
5. What “table” does Jesus prepare for you right now, even in the presence of your enemies?
6. God’s goodness to us never ends (6). It runs after us, as if chasing us down, Tell about a time it has seemed that God’s love and goodness followed you, a time when everywhere you turned you evidence of his love and care?

### **Psalm 30**

Read Psalm 30 and work through these questions.

1. Verses 1-3 – Reason for praise – What reasons do you find in these verses?
2. Verses 4-5 – Call to praise – What call is there for people to praise?
3. Verses 6-12a – Account of help – What help can you find here?
4. Verse 12b – Words of praise – What are the words of praise?

## **Psalm 32**

Read Psalm 32 and work through these questions.

Psalm 32 expresses David's joy in God's forgiveness. It was mostly likely written following his adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah.

1. What physical effects of un-repentant sin does David mention in this psalm?
2. Why are we as well as the psalmist, able to confess our sins to God and receive his forgiveness? See Luke 5:31-32; Romans 2:4b
3. Read verses 8-11. What truths does David want others to know about repentance?

## **Psalm 118**

Read Psalm 118 and work through these questions.

1. Psalm 118 praises God for deliverance from enemies. This psalm is rich in familiar verses and verse parts, some of which are found in other places in Scripture. Which verses in this psalm are familiar to you and/or seem particularly powerful? Explain
2. While verses 19-21 do not mention our Lord Jesus by name, they speak volumes about what he has done for us. What truths about Christ's work can you glean from the text?
3. Throughout Psalm 118, the psalmist refers to the things "the Lord has done" (vv. 6, 7, 10-16). Verses 22 and 23 tell of yet another thing the Lord has done.

After reading and rereading a psalm, ask yourself these questions. What words or phrases stick out to you? How do these words or phrases reveal the poet's purpose for the psalm? What effect does this psalm have on you as you meditate on it?