

To Raise a Family



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 3: August 13–19, 2016

Day 1

August 15



Pray / Thank God for his constant presence and protection.

ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL what is beyond our control only leaves us angry, frightened, and overwhelmed. We are a society of wanting our problems fixed immediately. We might pray and ask God for help, but if we don't get an immediate response, we get impatient and try to "fix it" ourselves. The act of being still is a big challenge in our hectic, busy world. We need to slow down, pray, and be still so that we can receive God's love and guidance in all of our situations.

Many of us fear and dwell on the tragic events in our lives. What if we switched our focus to God instead of these problems? This psalm reminds us that in the worst of disasters, and even if the world were to end, we should have no fear. God is our refuge and strength all the time.



Read / Psalm 46



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

Reflect on a time when your relationship with God helped you to weather a “storm.”

The news is filled with stories of natural disasters, wars, and diseases in our world today. How does it make you feel to know that God truly is in control of these situations?

Many people are intimidated by silence. This psalm reminds us to “be still and know that [He is] God.” Reflect on this verse and your challenges today. Do you view this verse as a struggle or a promise?

Day 2

August 16



Pray / Spend a few minutes praising God for who he is.

HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES, and the crowd jumps for joy, clapping, singing, and cheering for the home team. We are quick to applaud, cheer, and whoop and holler for an individual or team that has accomplished something pleasing to us, but how often do we show the same excitement and praise for the one who protects us, guides us, provides for us, and loves us always and unconditionally?

God deserves our praise and thanks more than any other person or group of people, no matter their achievements. God is the king of all the earth, and there is no one higher than God. Therefore, no one should be praised more than him. When was the last time you worshiped with extreme excitement for our one, true King?



Read / Psalm 47



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

God wants praise, he wants us to acknowledge him and be joyful in his presence. What do you enjoy about God, why do you praise him?

This psalm tells us to sing, clap, and shout our praises for God. What other ways do you outwardly show your joy in the Lord?

Make a list of things you are thankful for today. Do you acknowledge these things as gifts from God? Praise and thank him for these gifts today.

Day 3

August 17



Pray / Ask God to help you see him as your refuge.

GOD IS GREAT and most worthy of our praise. Mount Zion is the “city of the great king” because it was once seen as the center of God’s presence in the world. The Scriptures tell us it is a place where believers will gather in the last days and where God will be living among them.

God is our refuge. He always will be our guide and our ruler. We need to seek him regularly for guidance in our lives and continue to praise him. God’s name and God’s praise should reach to the ends of the earth. We need to continue to share our faith and share the greatness of God.



Read / Psalm 48



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

We often ask for God’s guidance as we struggle with decisions. How have you seen God guide you through a crisis in your “city”?

There are people in our lives who play significant roles in sharing their faith and passing God’s love on to us. How do you share your faith and pass God’s love on to others?

Today’s psalm is telling us that it is good to reflect upon our future in a new heaven and a new earth. The Book of Revelation gives us a glimpse of what our future holds in a new heaven and new earth, which includes God living among us, no death, no mourning, no tears, and no pain. How does reflecting on the new heaven and new earth change your perspective on your challenges and struggles today?

Day 4
August 18



Pray / Pray that you'll find pleasure in God, not material things.

MONEY CANNOT BUY you a life in heaven, so we must live a life with God and use our resources for the good of his kingdom. Every single day, regardless of our social status, we are focused on wealth and materialism. It's difficult not to want the latest smartphone, drive the newest car, travel to the best destinations, and just keep up with the Joneses. We all struggle with how "the American dream" compromises our walks with God.

Putting our trust in our wealth and our material items can lead to our declining trust in God. God is always with us, loving us and protecting us, regardless of our wealth. We need to stop focusing on our stuff and instead focus on God.



Read / Psalm 49



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

We can easily fall into the trap of believing that that money will keep us happy in good times and secure in times of trouble. How much happiness and security do you place in God, compared to your security in wealth and material items?

How does this psalm challenge your current lifestyle and priorities?

Reflect on a financial decision or big purchase that you made recently. Will the choice that you made now sound foolish when you stand before God on Judgment Day?

Day 5

August 19



Pray / Tell God what you are thankful for today.

GOD WANTS REAL. God desires genuine, heartfelt praise and obedience.

In this psalm, God is calling out people who are bringing sacrifices but are only going through the motions and forgetting the significance of the sacrifice. This happens in the church today. While we are no longer sacrificing animals, we often get into a routine of religious rituals that lose their meaning. We sometimes tithe, attend church services, recite prayers, take communion, and volunteer out of habit, or sometimes even for the sake of our own image, worried about what other will think if we don't. God deserves real, heartfelt worship, real sacrifice in our lives, and a real relationship with him.



Read / Psalm 50



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following for reflection.

In the Old Testament, animals were sacrificed to show thanks and appreciation for God. How do you show thanks and appreciation for God today?

When have you gotten caught up in the things that you do for God to the extent that you neglected worshipping him?

God tells that we can call upon him “in the day of trouble,” and he will deliver us (verse 15). When you call upon God to help you in trouble, do you give him the glory?

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