



Series: Good News of Great Joy

The Psalms reflect just about every emotion and mood of our human experience, from shouts of praise to wrestling with the hardest questions about suffering. Their voice is refreshingly spontaneous in conversation with the divine through poetry, prayer, and of course, song. This summer, we will celebrate the rich diversity of the Psalms, exploring major themes and how they can help us draw into closer relationship with an ever-present God. Come, let us join with God’s people throughout the ages in singing praise and heartfelt prayer as we experience a Summer of Psalms.

“Here at the very center of the Bible are songs, rising up like a tune from its heart.
They capture the innermost thoughts and prayers of Old Testament people –
and they still speak directly to our needs”
(*NRSV Student Bible* with notes by Philip Yancey and Tim Stafford)

Message description:

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul describes what it looks like to put on a new humanity in Christ and to come under the influence of the spirit; new creations in Christ will speak words of encouragement and peace, not anger. Being filled with the Spirit, they will address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:19-21)

As we continue to discover ways to walk together in love, to come under the influence of this Spirit, and to continue to be rooted and grounded in love, we will spend part of the summer exploring the psalms, which functioned as a prayerbook for the people of God in Israel. The Psalms speak to every season and human emotion we could imagine, from shouts of praise to wrestling with the hardest questions about suffering. Join us this summer as we will celebrate the rich diversity of the Psalms and explore how they can help us draw into closer relationship with an ever-present God.

An introduction to the Psalms:

The Psalms are a collection of ancient Hebrew poems, songs, and prayers that come from all different periods of Israel's history. They are divided into 5 books, divided by a similar doxology that serves as a conclusion to each section. Psalms 1 and 2 serve as introductory poems, introducing the two main themes throughout the Psalms: the study of Torah [God's covenant, faithfulness, provision] and the hope of the future Messianic king. **The book of Psalms was to serve as the prayerbook of God's people as they strived to be faithful to the commands of God's Torah and as they hoped and waited for the Messianic king.**

Structure

Intro- Psalms 1 and 2

Book 1- Psalms 3–41

Book 2- Psalms 42–72

Book 3- Psalms 73–89

Book 4- Psalms 90–106

Book 5- Psalms 107–145

Closing- Psalms 146-150

Video from the Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/psalms/>

Key Scriptures

Psalms 1 and 2