

LESSON 7

**I WILL PRAISE YOU,
O LORD**

Psalm 18

*A Psalm of David, the servant of the Lord,
who addressed the words of this song to the Lord on the day
when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies,
and from the hand of Saul. He said:*

¹I love you, O Lord, my strength.

²The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

⁴The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;

⁵the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

May the LORD fulfill all your petitions!

⁶In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

WELCOME: *Fixing Our Focus*

Leader: Ask the members of the group to describe who God is to them. Ask them to think of an adjective that best describes who God is in their life and explain to the rest of group why they thought of that particular adjective.

WORSHIP: *Adoring Our God*

Suggested songs:

The Lord is My Salvation by Keith and Kristyn Getty
Everlasting God by Brenton Brown and Ken Riley

WORD: *Understanding the Word*

Introduction

This psalm was sung by David toward the end of his life as recorded in 2 Samuel 22. He reviews God's faithfulness through his many years of struggles and battles. He could have easily claimed all the glory for all his accomplishments. He didn't do that, however.

Today, we see people making monuments to their life and accomplishments. In our recent national elections, candidates unashamedly listed all their achievements. Sometimes, people give a token appreciation to God. Could this lack of acknowledgment of God be the result of a lack of knowledge of God? Let's see what David said.

Leader: Lead in reading Psalm 16 aloud together. Then read the paragraph on the "Key Verse."

Key Verse: David concludes this psalm with one resolve: "For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to your name" (v. 49). His life was not perfect. He committed many sins. But over and over again, he would repent and return to God. And as he was nearing the end of his life, his resolve to praise his God remained firm.

Psalm 18:1-19. Theme: _____

In verses 1-2, draw a rectangle around all the words that David used to describe God.

1. According to these words, who was God for David? How would you summarize his experience with God?
2. The Passion Translation (TPT) renders verse 1 as: “Lord, I passionately love you and I’m bonded to you, for now you’ve become my power.” What do you think is the reason for David’s fervent love for God?
3. Read verses 4-6. As a fugitive from King Saul, David surely lost some things. Make a list of some of those precious things he lost during all those years that he lived as a fugitive. List the dangers he faced. How did he cope through these very difficult years?

Read verses 7-19 together. Underline references to the earth and things on earth in these verses. Draw a cloud around words that refer to the heavens.

⁷Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked,
because he was angry.

⁸Smoke went up from his nostrils
and devouring fire from his mouth;
glowing coals flamed forth from him.

⁹He bowed the heavens and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.

¹⁰He rode on a cherub and flew;
he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.

¹¹He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him,
thick clouds dark with water.

¹²Out of the brightness before him

hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.

¹³The Lord also thundered in the heavens,
and the Most High uttered his voice,
hailstones and coals of fire.

¹⁴And he sent out his arrows and scattered them;
he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.

¹⁵Then the channels of the sea were seen,
and the foundations of the world were laid bare
at your rebuke, O Lord,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

¹⁶He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters.

¹⁷He rescued me from my strong enemy
and from those who hated me,
for they were too mighty for me.

¹⁸They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
but the Lord was my support.

¹⁹He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

4. How was the deliverance that God brought to David experienced on earth? in heaven?
5. What does being brought “into a broad place” (v. 18) imply?
6. What principle in regard to the judgment of God do we learn from these verses?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 1-19.

Psalm 18:20-29. Theme: _____

Read verses 20-29 together.

- ²⁰The Lord dealt with me according to my righteousness;
according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.
- ²¹For I have kept the ways of the Lord,
and have not wickedly departed from my God.
- ²²For all his rules were before me,
and his statutes I did not put away from me.
- ²³I was blameless before him,
and I kept myself from my guilt.
- ²⁴So the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness,
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.
- ²⁵With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;
- ²⁶with the purified you show yourself pure;
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.
- ²⁷For you save a humble people,
but the haughty eyes you bring down.
- ²⁸For it is you who light my lamp;
the Lord my God lightens my darkness.
- ²⁹For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.

1. Was David boasting about being sinless in these verses? If not, what was he basically saying?

2. How could David possibly say “I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from my guilt”? (v. 23)

3. Explain these phrases:
 - “the haughty eyes you bring down” (v. 27)

 - “For it is you who light my lamp” (v. 28)

- “For by you I can run against a troop” (v. 29)

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 20-29.

Psalm 18:30-36. Theme: _____

Read verses 30-36 together. Draw a triangle around the words “God” and “Lord” and all pronouns referring to God. Underline words that describe who God is and what he does.

³⁰This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

³¹For who is God, but the Lord?
And who is a rock, except our God?—
³² the God who equipped me with strength
and made my way blameless.

³³He made my feet like the feet of a deer
and set me secure on the heights.

³⁴He trains my hands for war,
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁵You have given me the shield of your salvation,
and your right hand supported me,
and your gentleness made me great.

³⁶You gave a wide place for my steps under me,
and my feet did not slip.

1. List some reasons why David believed that God can be trusted with his whole life.
2. What did David believe about the Lord and the gods of the nations when he said, “For who is God, but the Lord”?

3. David described God as the one who trains him for war (v. 34) and one whose gentleness is great (v. 35). Do these descriptions contradict each other? Can God be a war-trainer and gentle at the same time? Explain your answer.

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 30-36.

Psalm 18:37-50. Theme: _____

Read verses 37-50 together. Place brackets [] on all references to what happened to David's enemies. Draw a triangle around the words "God" and "Lord" and all pronouns referring to God.

- ³⁷I pursued my enemies and overtook them,
and did not turn back till they were consumed.
- ³⁸I thrust them through, so that they were not able to rise;
they fell under my feet.
- ³⁹For you equipped me with strength for the battle;
you made those who rise against me sink under me.
- ⁴⁰You made my enemies turn their backs to me,
and those who hated me I destroyed.
- ⁴¹They cried for help, but there was none to save;
they cried to the Lord, but he did not answer them.
- ⁴²I beat them fine as dust before the wind;
I cast them out like the mire of the streets.
- ⁴³You delivered me from strife with the people;
you made me the head of the nations;
people whom I had not known served me.
- ⁴⁴As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me;
foreigners came cringing to me.
- ⁴⁵Foreigners lost heart
and came trembling out of their fortresses.
- ⁴⁶The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation—
- ⁴⁷the God who gave me vengeance
and subdued peoples under me,
- ⁴⁸who rescued me from my enemies;
yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me;

you delivered me from the man of violence.

⁴⁹For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations,
and sing to your name.

⁵⁰Great salvation he brings to his king,
and shows steadfast love to his anointed,
to David and his offspring forever.

1. To whom did David ascribe the victory he experienced against his enemies (vv. 37-42)?
2. Not everyone readily accepted David as king over Israel (see 2 Samuel 2:9-11). How did David's throne get established (v. 43)? How did his enemies respond when David's rule was established (vv. 44-49)?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 37-50.

WALK: *Applying the Word*

Questions for Adults

1. Based on your experiences so far this year, how would you describe God? Why?
2. David cried out in his time of great need. Do you ever doubt that God hears your prayers? If so, why? Read verse 6 again to encourage you that God hears your prayers.
3. David chose righteousness over sin in regard to his problems with Saul. Under what circumstances do you find it difficult to choose between obeying God and pursuing sin? Give examples from your life.
4. List some people or realities that serve as "enemies" of your faith today. How can you overcome all these enemies?

5. What is your usual response to trials, difficulties, and opposition in your life? David chose to respond in praise and thanksgiving. What must you do so that you will readily respond in worship to whatever happens to you every day?
6. Individually and as a group, pray back this psalm to God. You could start by saying something like:
Our great and loving Father, I praise you because there is no other god but you. I praise you because you are all-powerful...
7. Pray for GCF (Prayer requests supplied by the Leader).

Questions for the Youth

1. When people do good things or show love for you, the natural reaction is to thank them. Can you recall a person whom you can't stop thanking because of what they've done for you?
2. King David lived a life of thanksgiving and praise because of God's benevolence towards him. It was such a joy for him to be in God's presence. What can you do in order to develop a lifestyle of thanksgiving and praise to God?
3. There are many ways you can express gratitude towards people whom you are thankful for (e.g. buy them a gift, serenade them, serve them). In what ways can you express gratitude towards God?

Questions for Children

1. Share to the group an instance when God answered your prayer. How did this affect your view of God?
2. There are so many things to be thankful for. God didn't forget to wake you up this morning. There was food on the table. You have talents and skills. Maybe you were very sick before and the Lord healed you. Write down the things you are thankful to the Lord for.
3. Write down why you love the Lord. What did Jesus do for you that you love Him so much?