

LESSON 10

THANK GOD!

Psalm 21

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- ¹O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices,
and in your salvation how greatly he exults!
- ²You have given him his heart's desire
and have not withheld the request of his lips. *Selah*
- ³For you meet him with rich blessings;
you set a crown of fine gold upon his head.
- ⁴He asked life of you; you gave it to him,
length of days forever and ever.
- ⁵His glory is great through your salvation;
splendor and majesty you bestow on him.
- ⁶For you make him most blessed forever;
you make him glad with the joy of your presence.
- ⁷For the king trusts in the Lord,
and through the steadfast love of the Most High
he shall not be moved.
- ⁸Your hand will find out all your enemies;
your right hand will find out those who hate you.
- ⁹You will make them as a blazing oven when you appear.
The Lord will swallow them up in his wrath,
and fire will consume them.
- ¹⁰You will destroy their descendants from the earth,
and their offspring from among the children of man.
- ¹¹Though they plan evil against you,
though they devise mischief, they will not succeed.
- ¹²For you will put them to flight;
you will aim at their faces with your bows.
- ¹³Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength!
We will sing and praise your power.

WELCOME: *Fixing Our Focus*

Leader: Ask the members of the group what is one thing they are most thankful to God for. Ask them to explain why they are most thankful to God for things they shared.

WORSHIP: *Adoring Our God*

Suggested songs:

Thank You, Lord by Don Moen

You, You are God by Gateway Worship

WORD: *Understanding the Word*

Introduction

A black hole is thought of as an object in space that consumes everything that comes within its sphere of influence. If black holes really exist that would be scary. Can you imagine matter getting sucked into oblivion?

When things go well, some people act like black holes; i.e., they intentionally claim all the credit. That's annoying, right? If you want your life to be in tune with God, then you need to give him the credit when it is due him. Discipline yourself to thank God. He deserves it.

Leader: Lead in reading Psalm 20 together. Then read the paragraph on the "Key Verse."

Key Verse: The people had prayed for David in a day of trouble. He himself looked to God in prayer. In this psalm, David acknowledges that the victory they had prayed for was given by God. Therefore, in thanksgiving, David exclaims: "O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices, and in your salvation how greatly he exults" (v. 1).

Psalm 21:1-7. Theme: _____

Encircle all the nouns and pronouns in verses 1-7 that refer to King David.

1. Psalm 20 and Psalm 21 are vitally connected; the former records prayer requests while the latter records thanksgiving for answers to prayers. Complete the table below to make this connection.

Prayer Request	Answered Prayer
Psalm 20:4	Psalm 21:2
Psalm 20:1,9	Psalm 21:1

2. Describe how excited David was over answered prayer (v. 1). Define “rejoices” and “greatly exults.”

3. Read verses 2-7. List each of the things David received from God in answer to prayer.
 - v. 2a _____
 - v. 2b _____
 - v. 3a _____
 - v. 3b _____
 - v. 4 _____
 - v. 5 _____
 - v. 6a _____
 - v. 6b _____
 - v. 7 _____

4. According to verse 6, what was David's greatest blessing and source of gladness?

5. What could possibly happen if David failed to give thanks to God for answering his prayers and the prayers of the people on his behalf?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 1-7.

Psalm 21:8-13. Theme: _____

Encircle all the nouns and pronouns in verses 8-13 that refer to the enemies of King David.

1. Read verses 8-12. List each of the things God would do against his enemies. Explain the metaphors David used such as "a blazing oven."
 - v. 8a _____
 - v. 8b _____
 - v. 9a _____
 - v. 9b _____
 - v. 9c _____
 - v. 10 _____
 - v. 11 _____
 - v. 12a _____
 - v. 12b _____

2. What is the meaning and implication of the phrase "when you appear" (v. 9) in relation to God's dealings with his enemies?

3. According to verse 11, why do the enemies of God deserve his judgment?

4. God's acts of judgment are compared to arrows aimed at the faces of his enemies (v. 12). What does this say about the judgment of God?

5. In view of God's victory over his enemies, what were David and the people of Israel determined to do? (v. 13).

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 8-13.

WALK: *Applying the Word*

Questions for Adults

1. When you pray for something, do you carefully watch to see how God would answer your prayer? Or do you just forget about it?
2. How do you typically respond to answered prayer? David and the people of Israel responded with excitement and thanksgiving. Do you respond in the same way?
3. What is your first impulse when you experience a positive outcome in your life? To whom do you automatically give the credit? Explain your answer.
4. Examine your prayer life. How much time do you give to thanksgiving?
5. What expression of goodness have you received from God today? Share with the group and thank God for his goodness.
6. Individually and as a group, pray back this psalm to God. You could start by saying something like:
*O Lord, I praise you because you are powerful.
Your power is greater than this trial that I am facing today...*
7. Pray for GCF (Prayer requests supplied by the Leader).

Questions for the Youth

1. It is in God's nature to bless people and take care of his children. How have God blessed you or taken care of you the past week?
2. It is natural for us to show our gratefulness to people who have helped us. What are some ways that you can show your gratefulness to God?
3. Commit to make thanksgiving a regular part of your daily prayers to God. Pray that God makes you sensitive to how he is at work around you.

Questions for Children

1. Why are you thankful to the Lord today? What has he done for you lately? List them down.
2. Why do you think it is good for us to give thanks to God? What happens if we do not take time to show our gratitude to him?
3. Many times we keep asking God for things such as "Lord, I need this new gadget" or "Lord, I want to go on a vacation." Right now, spend some time just thanking him for saving you from sin, for providing for you and your family's needs, etc.