

LESSON 14

# TEACH ME YOUR WAYS O LORD

## *Psalm 25*

*Of David.*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

<sup>3</sup>Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

<sup>11</sup>For your name's sake, O Lord,

pardon my guilt, for it is great.

<sup>12</sup>Who is the man who fears the Lord?

Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.

<sup>13</sup>His soul shall abide in well-being,

- and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- <sup>14</sup>The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,  
and he makes known to them his covenant.
- <sup>15</sup>My eyes are ever toward the Lord,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- <sup>16</sup>Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- <sup>17</sup>The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.
- <sup>18</sup>Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.
- <sup>19</sup>Consider how many are my foes,  
and with what violent hatred they hate me.
- <sup>20</sup>Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
- <sup>21</sup>May integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
for I wait for you.
- <sup>22</sup>Redeem Israel, O God,  
out of all his troubles.

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**WELCOME:** *Fixing Our Focus*

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**Leader:** Ask the members of your group who they trust the most. Allow them to share who this person is with the group. Ask them to explain why they trust this person.

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**WORSHIP:** *Adoring Our God*

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Suggested songs:

*Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us* by Dorothy Thrupp  
*Mighty to Save* by Hillsong Worship

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## WORD: *Understanding the Word*

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### **Introduction**

It has been said that reading and meditating upon the Bible keeps us from sin, and sin keeps us from the Bible. But God is gracious. Even though our sins may keep us from spending time with God and his Word, God continues to reach out to us. And once we have turned from our sins and placed our trust in him alone, we can be assured that God's love and faithfulness will always be with us, to keep our lives in tune with him, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.

*Leader:* Lead in reading Psalm 25 aloud together. Then read the paragraph on the "Key Verse."

*Key Verse:* This psalm focuses on the Lord's ways and teachings/instructions. But God's teachings are not just for the righteous; they are primarily for the unrighteous. It shows that "good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way."

**Psalm 25:1-3. Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Encircle all occurrences of the word "shame" (and "ashamed"). There are two kinds of people being contrasted here. How do they differ from each other?

*In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 1-3.*

**Psalm 25:4-7. Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Underline all verbs that have to do with teaching or instruction. Why did the psalmist ask for instruction from the Lord? (vv. 4-5)
  
2. Encircle the word “remember.” What contrast does the psalmist introduce in this passage and how are they related to each other? (vv. 6-7)

*In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 4-7.*

**Psalm 25:8-11. Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Once again, underline all verbs that has to do with teaching. Why does God teach sinners His way? (vv. 8-9)
  
2. What promises mentioned here can be claimed by those who obey the Lord? (vv. 10-11)

*In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 8-11.*

**Psalm 25:12-14. Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Underline all phrases which describe the “man who fears the Lord.” What do these phrases mean to you?

*In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 12-14.*

**Psalm 25:15-21. Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Underline all phrases used by the psalmist to describe his current situation, then encircle his requests to the Lord. How would you describe the tone of the psalmist in these verses? (vv. 16-18)
  
2. The psalmist cried to the Lord for deliverance from his enemies, yet the psalmist is confident that God will deliver him. Underline the reasons for the psalmist’s confidence. How can we have the same confidence in God answering our prayers? (vv. 15, 19-21)

*In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 15-21.*

**Psalm 25:22. Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do you think there is a shift from a personal prayer to one of community?

*In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verse 22.*

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### **WALK:** *Applying the Word*

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#### **Questions for Adults**

1. How intentional are you in knowing God's ways? What are you doing in order to walk in it?
2. How do you feel knowing that God instructs and forgives you according to his character, and not based on your merits? If God's forgiveness does not depend on people's merits (or lack of it), then why do people avoid God when they sin?
3. How confident are you that God's love and faithfulness remains with you despite the difficulties and trials of life? What are some things that may shake your trust in him?
4. Commit to set aside a portion of time each day to read, study, and meditate upon God's Word. Put in a journal the things you learn each day.
5. Individually and as a group, pray back this psalm to God. You could start by saying something like:  
*Father, thank you for being faithful and trustworthy. Reveal yourself to me that my heart and mind may be transformed to be more like yours.*
6. Pray for our country (Prayer requests supplied by the Leader.)

## **Questions for the Youth**

1. It's difficult to open up to a complete stranger. There is the risk of being judged or misunderstood. Who are people whom you can fully open up to? Why are you able to open up to them?
2. God knows you through and through. He knows you better than you know yourself because he is the one who created you. Are you able to open up to him? What are things that prevent you from being able to do so?
3. Athletes have coaches to guide them. Students have professors to teach them. Do you have somebody who guides you through life? Commit to set aside some time to read, study, and meditate on God's Word every day.

## **Questions for Children**

1. In moments of trouble and difficulty, where should we go for help? In whom should we trust? Where do we go when we need guidance and truth?
2. Verse 8 says that the Lord leads us in the way we should go through his Word. How many times in a week do you read and study the Bible? Pray that God will help you read and obey his Word more consistently.
3. In verse 14, David says those who fear the Lord will receive his friendship. What kind of friend do you think God is? Describe in your own words.
4. Do you know of somebody who needs a friend like Jesus? Pray for them that they may get to know him through you.