

LESSON 15

CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD

Psalm 27

Of David.

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

⁶And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."

⁹Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,

O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,

O God of my salvation!

¹⁰For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

but the Lord will take me in.

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord,

and lead me on a level path

because of my enemies.

¹²Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

for false witnesses have risen against me,

and they breathe out violence.

¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord

in the land of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord!

WELCOME: *Fixing Our Focus*

Leader: Ask each member to rate their self-confidence from one to ten, with ten being the highest. Explain to the group that while most companies look for people with healthy confidence in themselves, with God, he wants us to stay dependent upon him. He is the only one who is completely trustworthy and will not let us down.

WORSHIP: *Adoring Our God*

Suggested songs:

My Hope by Hillsong Worship

Rock of Ages by Paul Baloche

WORD: *Understanding the Word*

Introduction

Have you ever noticed how young children find their security in their parents? When a stranger suddenly talks to them, most if not all, immediately retreat to the safety of their parent's arms. But when they grow up, they lose this dependence on parents for security.

How about you, what is your source of security? Can it keep your life in tune with God in all circumstances? Can you rely upon it when calamities such as earthquakes or fire strike? How about when you or a loved one is discovered to be terminally ill? This psalm tells us that the only reliable source of security is God alone.

Leader: Lead in reading Psalm 27 aloud together. Then read the paragraph on the "Key Verse."

Key Verse: The psalmist conveys his confidence in the Lord through this psalm. That is why whether in good times or in bad, the psalmist can honestly say, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1-3. Theme: _____

1. Underline the words the psalmist used to describe God. How is God described by the psalmist such that he fears no one? (v. 1)

2. What are examples of situations given by the psalmist where he need not fear because of his trust in God? What are some personal situations where you have placed your trust in God?

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

Psalm 27:4-6. Theme: _____

1. What does the psalmist greatly desire of the Lord? (v. 4)

2. Underline the reasons listed by the psalmist why he sought after God. What are the things hoped for by the psalmist? (vv. 5-6) If God is our first desire, what are some things we can hope for?

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

Psalm 27:7-10. Theme: _____

1. Encircle the petitions of the psalmist to the Lord. How do you think these verses relate to the psalmist's earlier declarations of confidence in God? (vv. 7-9)

2. Underline the phrases where the psalmist showed continued trust in the Lord. How can you reconcile these statements of trust with the tone of these passages?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 7-10.

Psalm 27:11-12. Theme: _____

1. Encircle the requests made by the psalmist to the Lord. What is the reason behind the petitions and requests made by the psalmist beginning from verse 7?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 11-12.

Psalm 27:13-14. Theme: _____

1. How does the psalmist conclude this psalm? Why do you think he ends the psalm this way?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 13-14.

WALK: *Applying the Word*

Questions for Adults

1. This psalm reminds us that our ultimate source of security should be the Lord. What or who have been your sources of security? Why did you choose to rely upon them?
2. Does confidence in the Lord mean not being able to feel despair during times of difficulty? What can we learn from this psalm with regards to this?
3. What can we learn from this psalm with regards to strengthening our faith in God? What are some of the things we can do 1) when times are good, 2) when we experience difficult times, and 3) when we leave behind difficult times so that our faith in God is strengthened?
4. What can we do in order to shift our sense of security to God?
5. Individually and as a group, pray back this psalm to God. You could start by saying something like:

Father, I put my trust in you. You are my savior, my refuge, my source of strength. There is nothing I desire more than you...

6. Pray for our country.

Questions for the Youth

1. It is natural for us to secure our belongings. We lock our phones using fingerprint or passcode. We place our valuables inside locked drawers. How about your life? What measures have you taken to secure your life?
2. King David placed his security upon God alone. There is nothing or nobody who can be more trustworthy than him, yet people place their trust in something else. How about you, what are things or who are the people you turn to for security? Why?
3. What can help increase your trust in God? Write down at least three.

Questions for Children

1. It is very easy to be scared but Psalm 27 tells us why we can trust

in God. Why can we be confident in the Lord?

2. What are some things that you are worried or afraid about? Write them down and then pray to the Lord to help you be brave and trust in him.
3. How should we respond when God takes care of us?
4. Write down Psalm 27:14 in an index card and memorize it.