

FALL, 2023
Life Group WORKSHEET
Week 3 | Psalm 103

INTRODUCTION

For this week, following our Lead Pastor Candidate weekend, we are stepping out of the Sermon on the Mount series. We plan to return to the Sermon on the Mount study next week by looking at Matthew 5:33-48. Pastor Jon will be preaching from that passage on October 1.

For this week in our life groups, we want to give some attention to united prayer - Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship-based prayer. Both the Bible and church history point to the dynamic impact of united prayer where believers earnestly come before the LORD in agreement. For example, in Acts 4:23-31, during a stressful time of opposition, the early church approached the LORD in united prayer. The prayer they prayed is instructive, and the response of God to their prayer was astonishing. In church history we have accounts of major moves of the LORD in revival, awakening, and subsequent advance of the gospel. And there are gripping stories of how those powerful moves of God began in movements of corporate, united prayer.

When prayer becomes listless, it is frequently related to the FOCUS of the one who is praying. Where is their GAZE, and where is their GLANCE. At Grace Church we have over the years referred to the GAZE/GLANCE prayer principle. When you approach the LORD, is your focus or GAZE on the LORD, or is it on your need. That matters. When we approach the LORD with a gaze on HIm we are reminded that He is strong and loving. He is adequate. On the other hand, when we come to God in prayer focused with GAZE on our need, while only GLANCING in God's direction, passion/desire for prayer begins to shrivel. You become overwhelmed with the magnitude of your need. Until you focus very deliberately in worship on the ONE who is greater than your need, you will be vulnerable to anxiety and worry and diminished hope.

In the life groups, we want to GAZE on the LORD as He is revealed in Psalm 103.
Read together Psalm 103

In Psalm 103, King David is urging his own soul to praise the LORD. In that posture of praise and worship, He is deliberately calling to mind who the LORD is, and what the LORD has done.

REVERENCE - Celebrate who God is and what He has done in worship

1. What do we learn about God in this passage as we intentionally GAZE on HIM?
2. What do we learn about the character of God in this Psalm?
3. As you read Psalm 103, in what ways has He pursued us? What has He done to compel a response from us?

UNITED PRAYER in our LIFE GROUPS

Leaders, we are using as a template a prayer guide that comes from the book, Praying the Psalms, a book put together by the 6:4 Fellowship.

You can read each of the prayer prompts to your group, encouraging them to fill in the prompt with some personal expression of prayer.

Leader Notes:

Invite the group to pray short prayers of praise/worship to these prompts

REVERENCE (WORSHIP)

- God forgives and heals (verse 3)
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- He redeems and crowns with mercy (verse 4)
- He satisfies and renews (verse 5)
- He is marked by righteousness and justice verse 6)
- He is a God of love and forgiveness (verses 7-14)
- I bless you, Lord, for redeeming me from _____
- I praise you, LORD, for satisfying me with _____

RESPONSE - Surrender to the LORD and HIS ways

- LORD, I bless you for showing me your ways through _____
- LORD, cause me to walk in your ways even when _____

REQUESTS

- LORD, I pray for you to work righteousness and justice for _____
- LORD, please demonstrate that your KINGDOM rules over _____
- Bring other requests you have to the LORD regarding -
 - Family
 - Church family
 - Pray by name for people in your circle of influence who are without Jesus

READINESS

- Bless the LORD, all my soul and do not forget His benefits.
- What benefits of the LORD do you want to remember as encouragement and strength for the spiritual battle you may be facing -
- Bless the LORD, all my soul, and help me to remember Your _____

LEADERS

Life Group Leader, you close the prayer time by leading in a closing prayer.

Concluding Question for Discussion:

How could the GAZE/GLANCE principle be helpful to you in the coming week? How could the practice of Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship based prayer invigorate your relationship with the LORD?