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# Psalms

Psalm 2:1-12

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In this powerful exploration of Psalm 2, we're reminded of God's sovereignty and the futility of opposing His will. The psalm, a Royal Psalm, prophetically points to the Messiah's triumph and eternal kingdom.

We're challenged to consider how often we, like the nations described, plot in vain without considering God's plans. The imagery of God laughing at human rebellion is both humbling and reassuring - it reminds us that no matter how chaotic the world seems, God remains in control. As we delve into the covenant God made with David, we see its ultimate fulfillment in Christ. This eternal perspective should shape how we approach our daily lives and challenges.

Are we seeking God's will or plotting our own course? The call to 'kiss the Son' invites us into intimate submission to Christ, a posture that leads to blessing and refuge. In a world that often feels tumultuous, this psalm encourages us to anchor ourselves in God's unchanging promises and authority.

5-Day Devotional and Small Group Guide

# Day 1: God’s Sovereignty and Our Trust

Reading: Psalm 2:1-12

# Devotional: As we read Psalm 2, we're reminded of God's supreme authority over all nations and rulers. Despite the apparent chaos in our world, God remains in control. He "laughs" at the vain plots of earthly powers (v. 4), affirming His unshakeable reign. Today, reflect on areas in your life where you struggle to trust God's sovereignty. Are there situations causing you anxiety or fear? Remember, just as God has "set [His] King on Zion" (v. 6), He has established His rule over your life. Take comfort in knowing that the same God who oversees nations is intimately involved in your personal circumstances. Pray for the strength to "serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling" (v. 11), fully submitting to His perfect will.

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# Day 2: The Power of Community in Faith

Reading: Acts 4:23-31

# Devotional: The early church faced intense persecution, yet their response wasn't isolation but unity in prayer. When Peter and John were released after being threatened, they immediately "went to their own companions”. This reminds us of the vital role community plays in our faith journey. In times of trial, do you tend to isolate yourself or seek fellowship with other believers? Today, consider how you can strengthen your connections within your faith community. Reach out to a fellow believer, share your struggles, and pray together. Remember, there's power in united prayer – the early believers prayed so fervently that "the place where they were meeting was shaken" . Let's cultivate a spirit of bold, communal faith that can shake the foundations of our world.

# Day 3: Praying Scripture in Times of Need

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Devotional: The transcription highlighted how the early church prayed using Scripture, specifically Psalm 2. This practice of praying God's Word back to Him is powerful and transformative. As we read about the armor of God in Ephesians 6, let's consider how we can incorporate Scripture into our prayer life. Take each piece of the armor – the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit – and pray them over yourself and loved ones. For example, "Lord, gird me with your truth today. Let your Word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." By praying Scripture, we align our hearts with God's will and tap into the power of His promises.

# Day 4: God’s Faithfulness Amidst Human Weakness

Reading: 2 Sauel 7:8-16

# Devotional: God's covenant with David reminds us of His unwavering faithfulness, even when we falter. Despite the failures of David and his descendants, God remained true to His promise, ultimately fulfilling it through Jesus Christ. Reflect on your own life – where have you seen God's faithfulness shine through your weaknesses? Perhaps there were times when you felt unworthy of God's love or incapable of fulfilling His calling. Yet, like David, God chose you not because of your perfection, but because of His grace. Today, thank God for His steadfast love that endures forever. Allow His faithfulness to inspire you to press on in your faith journey, knowing that "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion" (Philippians 1:6).

# Day 5: Boldness in Proclaiming the Gospel

Reading: Romans1:16-17

Devotional: The early believers prayed for boldness to continue preaching the gospel despite persecution. Paul echoes this courage in Romans, declaring he is "not ashamed of the gospel" (v. 16). In our increasingly secular world, proclaiming our faith can sometimes feel daunting. Yet, like Paul, we're called to be bold ambassadors for Christ. Today, examine your life – are there areas where you've been hesitant to share your faith? Remember, the gospel is "the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" (v. 16). Your testimony, no matter how simple, carries this transformative power. Pray for opportunities to share your faith today, and for the boldness to seize them. Trust that as you step out in faith, God's power will be at work through you, just as it was through the early church.

# Small Group Guide: Jesus Prays for Himself

## Key Takeaways:

## Psalm 2 is a Royal Psalm that points to the future Messiah and His worldwide rule.

## The early church quoted this psalm when praying for boldness in the face of persecution.

## God's covenant with David is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

## Despite opposition from earthly rulers, God's plan prevails.

## We are called to submit to Christ's authority and take refuge in Him.

## Discussion Questions:

* How can we cultivate a prayer life that, like the early church, prioritizes boldness and spiritual power over comfort and safety?
* In what ways might we be 'plotting in vain' by making plans without considering God's will, and how can we align our ambitions with His purposes?
* How does understanding the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) impact our daily walk with God and our approach to worship?
* What does it mean to 'serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling,' and how can we balance reverence with joy in our relationship with God?
* How can we apply the concept of 'kissing the Son' in our modern context, demonstrating submission and loyalty to Christ in a world that often opposes Him?
* In what areas of our lives might we be resisting God's authority, and how can we fully submit to His kingship?
* How can we cultivate a greater awareness of God's sovereignty and power in our daily lives, especially during challenging times?
* What does it mean for us to be 'ambassadors of the gospel' in our current cultural context, and how can we effectively fulfill this role?

## Practical Applications:

1. **Prayer**: This week, consider areas where you might be holding back from fully surrendering to God. Seek ways to improve your relationship with God through His word.
2. **Reflection:** Identify one area in your life where you may be receiving or following ungodly **counsel**. What steps can you take to align that area with God's wisdom?
3. **Identify:** Identify one area in your life where you need boldness to share the gospel. Pray specifically for God's strength in this area.
4. **Accountability:** Do you truly see Gods Word as important? Do you hunger for truth? Today, would you be more closely aligned with the righteous or unrighteous? Why?
5. **Thankfulness:** Make a list of ways God has been faithful to you in the past. Use this as a reminder when facing challenges.
6. **Service:** Look for opportunities to demonstrate grace and truth in your interactions with others, following Jesus' example.

## Further Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentioned different categories of Psalms. Which category resonates most with you personally and why?
2. Reflect on Acts 4:23-31. How does the early church's prayer for boldness challenge our own prayer life?
3. Marc shared personal experiences of seeing God's provision. Can you share a time when you witnessed God's faithfulness in your life?
4. How does understanding the Trinity (as explained in the sermon) impact your view of God and your relationship with Him?
5. The sermon emphasized praying Scripture. What are some practical ways we can incorporate more Scripture into our prayers?
6. Discuss the statement: "We cannot claim refuge in Him and live in rebellion." What areas of our lives might we need to submit more fully to Christ?
7. How does the image of God laughing at the plans of those who oppose Him (Psalm 2:4) affect your perspective on current world events?

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