



DIGGING DEEPER

BCLR BIBLE STUDY BASICS - PSALMS

DAY 1

OBSERVATION



1. Read the psalm in the ESV journal.
2. Write some or all of the psalm (optional).
3. If the psalm has a Hebrew title, what do you learn from it?
4. What type of psalm is it? (See reference sheet.) Mark the verses that give evidence of this.
5. Notice any indications of time or place within the psalm.
6. What does the psalmist say about God?
7. What does the psalmist say about himself?
8. What emotions are expressed?
9. Note any additional circumstances if they are mentioned.

DAY 2

OBSERVATION



1. Read the psalm again.
2. Notice and mark the stanza breaks in the ESV journal. Write a one-word label for each stanza.
3. Write 5+ observations from the psalm. For example, how does the psalmist use:
 - Repetition
 - Similies/Metaphors
 - Cause/ Effect
 - Explanations
 - Response/ Prayer/ Plea
 - Pronouns
 - Imagery/ Word Pictures
 - Verbs/ Verb Tenses
 - Comparison/Contrast
 - Parallels
4. Find a doctrinal truth in the psalm (which may be implied), and note how the poetry helps describe it.

DAY 3

OBSERVATION



1. Read the psalm again.
2. What questions came to mind as you observed the psalm?
For example:
 - What is the meaning of a particular word?
 - What is the significance of a particular phrase?
 - Who are the pronouns referring to?
 - Why did the psalmist connect these ideas?
 - Why did the psalmist include this phrase, statement, or command?



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3. Choose at least two of your questions that help you better understand the psalm. Answer them by doing one or more of the following:

- Look up and write out the cross references.
- Read the passage in the NASB, NIV, LSB and NKJV.
- Look up the meanings of specific words in an English dictionary, Bible concordance, or on the Literal Word app.

DAY 4 INTERPRETATION



1. Read the psalm again.
2. Write a summary statement of the psalm in one sentence of 15 words or less. What did the psalmist say?
3. What other Scripture passages come to mind as you study this psalm?
4. How does the New Testament fill out our understanding of the truth in the psalm?
5. If you were teaching this psalm what would be your “big idea”? In one sentence of 15 words or less, write what you would want your audience to learn from this psalm.
6. Now is the time you may want to use a study Bible, commentary, or sermon to clarify your understanding of the psalm. Compare what you find to what you’ve discovered in your study.

DAY 5 APPLICATION



1. Read the psalm again.
2. Read your summary and “big idea” from day 4.
3. In what ways do you identify with the emotions of the psalmist?
4. What truths from this psalm lead you to worship God?
5. How do these truths impact your thinking, affections, and decisions?
6. Write and pray a response using the truths of the psalm.

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