

Summer In the Psalms -Week Two-Devotional guide

Day 1: Longing for God's Presence

Reading: Psalm 84:1-4

Devotional: As we begin this journey, let's reflect on our desire for God's presence. The psalmist expresses a deep longing for God's dwelling place, describing it as lovely and desirable. Today, consider your own hunger for God. How often do you yearn to be in His presence? In our busy lives, it's easy to neglect this spiritual longing. Take time to sit quietly, inviting God's presence into your heart. Remember, as believers, we are now God's temple (1 Corinthians 6:19). How can you cultivate a greater awareness of His presence in your daily life?

Day 2: Strength for the Journey

Reading: Psalm 84:5-7; Ephesians 6:10-18

Devotional: Our spiritual journey often requires strength beyond our own capabilities. The psalmist speaks of those whose strength is in God, and how they go from "strength to strength." Similarly, Paul encourages us to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." Today, reflect on the areas of your life where you need God's strength. Are you facing challenges that seem insurmountable? Remember, God's power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Pray for His strength to fill you, and consider how you might encourage others who are struggling on their journey.

Day 3: Transforming Our Valleys

Reading: Psalm 84:6; Isaiah 35:1-7

Devotional: Life inevitably brings us through valleys - times of sorrow, dryness, or difficulty. The Valley of Baca in Psalm 84 represents these challenging seasons. Yet, the psalmist describes how God's people turn this valley into a place of springs. Isaiah paints a similar picture of deserts blooming. Today, consider the "valleys" in your life. How might God be working to transform these difficult places? Remember, our trials can produce perseverance and character (Romans 5:3-4). Ask God to help you see His redemptive work in your challenges, and to use you as an instrument of His refreshing grace to others in their valleys.

Day 4: The Privilege of God's House

Reading: Psalm 84:10-12; Hebrews 10:19-25

Devotional: The psalmist declares that a day in God's courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. For ancient Israelites, this referred to the temple. For us today, it speaks to the privilege of fellowship with God and His people. Hebrews reminds us that through Christ, we have confident access to God's presence. Reflect on the value you place on gathering with fellow believers and spending time in God's presence. How might you prioritize these spiritual disciplines more intentionally? Consider also how you can contribute to making your church a place where others experience God's presence and love.

Day 5: Trust in the Journey

Reading: Psalm 84:11-12; Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional: Our reading plan concludes with a powerful declaration of trust in God. The psalmist affirms that God is a sun and shield, giving grace and glory. He withholds no good thing from those who walk uprightly. This echoes the wisdom of Proverbs, encouraging us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts. As you reflect on your own journey of faith, where do you need to grow in trust? Are there areas where you're holding back from fully relying on God? Remember, our pilgrimage of faith is not just about reaching a destination, but about growing in relationship with God along the way. Pray for a deepening trust in God's goodness and guidance in every step of your journey.