

# **AWAKE AND ALIVE**

ENJOYING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

# GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

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Your group needs to be a safe place for all people to share and to enter the discussion. This means, all members of the group need to adhere to a few ground rules:

## **WE LEAD WITH GRACE**

We respond to one another in light of what Christ has done for us, understanding that we are all in need of His grace, compassion, and mercy.

## **WE TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT**

We can wrestle with ideas and disagree with one another without judgement, personal attack, or dismissal. We don't laugh at others when they've shared and no putdowns of any kind. These are the actions that make others withdraw and feel uneasy about sharing.

## **WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER, NOT 'FIX' ONE ANOTHER**

Jesus does the 'fixing'. Give encouragement, speak truth, and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

## **WE COMMIT TO CONFIDENTIALITY**

What is said in the group should stay in the group unless permission is given to share it elsewhere. This is not to create a dysfunctional group that keeps unhealthy secrets. Instead, it is to create a culture of safety where everyone feels safe to share thoughts and feelings and knows that others will not find out.

## **WE DO NOT CROSSTALK**

Crosstalk is a conversation during discussion time that leaves others out and can be hurtful. Each person is free to express his or her feelings without interruptions.

Your group needs to agree with one another that you are committed to providing a safe place to be encouraged and challenged by the word of God and to let Him do a healing, sanctifying work in your lives.

If you have any concerns, you should speak to your group leader or get in contact with the church office.

## **JOIN A GROWTH GROUP**

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# AWAKE AND ALIVE

## ENJOYING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

A new year always brings with it a sense of expectation and excitement. We resolve to do things differently. With our health, our finances, our families, our friendships, and more. But nothing could be more important for us in 2019 than resolving to deepen our relationship with God. Join us for a series of sermons from the Psalms as we explore what it means to enjoy and experience the presence of God.

1. **Dead Religion** — Psalm 50
2. **Like a Sparrow** — Psalm 84
3. **Limiting God** — Psalm 78:40-43
4. **God, My God** — Psalm 63
5. **Always Before Me** — Psalm 16
6. **Seeking the Face of God** — Psalm 27





# DEAD RELIGION

## PSALM 50

### SHARE LIFE

*Building healthy and life-giving relationships*

Spend 20–30 minutes checking in with each other. Share what has been new, challenging, or encouraging in your life. Share what God has been teaching you or ways in which God has been changing you recently.

### PURSUE GOD

*Growing in knowledge of God and Christ-likeness*

**Psalm 50:** The subject of this psalm is properly understanding sacrifices. God instructs and warns His people about offering sacrifices. The psalm opens with an individual announcing that God has come to speak (vv. 1–4). God calls His people to gather (vv. 5–6), and addresses them directly by warning them that He does not need animal sacrifices (vv. 7–13). Instead, He prefers loyalty and dependence (vv. 14–15). He then rebukes the wicked for expressing false loyalty (vv. 16–21) and concludes with a final warning: His people should not forget Him; but they should offer thanksgiving and live in the right way (vv. 22–23). — **Faithlife Study Bible**

#### Read Psalm 50

What seemed to be wrong with the attitude of the people towards the sacrifices (**vv.9-15**)? Do we ever exhibit a similar attitude in our service or worship of God? How?

What truths do we learn about God in these verses?  
Do these truths reassure you or challenge you? Why?

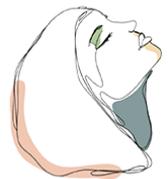
Who does God address in **verses 16-21**?  
What was wrong with their actions?

What did they misunderstand about God in **verse 21**?  
How do we make the same mistake today?

What is God's summary of their wrongdoing in **verse 22**?  
What does it mean to "forget God"?  
What are some of the things that can cause us to "forget God"?

Discuss the following statement from D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones: [To forget God] *"...is the folly of people who say that they believe in God but who in the tenor of their lives and in the whole of their conduct daily forget God and live exactly as if He did not exist."*

How can we honour God and receive his salvation according to **verse 23**?  
Why is thanksgiving so important? Consider **Luke 18:9-14** and discuss together.  
How can we foster praise and thanksgiving in our daily life?



## SERVE OTHERS

*Valuing people outside the group and outside the faith*

This psalm clearly lays out the danger and destructive power of hypocrisy among the people of God (**vv.16-22**). Why is hypocrisy so damaging to our lives and to our witness?

How does God use our genuine, growing relationship with him to reach others? Have you experienced this in your own life?

## PRAY ALWAYS

*Devoting ourselves to prayer*

*Almighty God,*

*You are perfect. You come to us. You speak. Your righteousness is declared in the heavens. We hate our hypocrisy. We would pretend perfect devotion, but You know the truth. Help us now, that we might glorify You. We turn away from all wickedness. Help us to love the truth from the heart. You are perfectly holy, and You care for us. We give You our thanksgiving as a pleasant sacrifice, for we offer You our lives.*

*Amen*

# PSALM 50

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! Selah

"Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me. I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

"If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine. Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips? For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you. If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers.

"You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit.

You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

"Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver! The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"







# LIKE A SPARROW

## PSALM 84

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### SHARE LIFE

*Building healthy and life-giving relationships*

Spend 20–30 minutes checking in with each other. Share what has been new, challenging, or encouraging in your life. Share what God has been teaching you or ways in which God has been changing you recently.

### PURSUE GOD

*Growing in knowledge of God and Christ-likeness*

**Psalm 84:** The psalmist emphasizes the joyful experience of the worshipers within the temple. He opens by admiring God's temple and then expresses joy in God (vv. 1–2). The psalmist describes how God cares for His creatures by providing a place for all of them at the temple (v. 3) so that they might be blessed in their worship of God (v. 4). He develops the theme of blessing at the worship site by depicting how God enables all those who desire to worship Him to make their way to Zion, the temple mount (vv. 5–7). He then alludes to the anointed ruler of Israel and asks that God help him (vv. 8–9). The psalmist returns to the theme of blessing and emphasizes the joy that comes from being in the temple (v. 10) because of God's generosity to those who are faithful to him (vv. 11–12). — **Faithlife Study Bible**

#### Read Psalm 84:1-4

In your own words, explain what the psalmist is describing in **verse 2**?  
Have you ever experienced something similar to what the psalmist is describing?  
Should this be our normal experience? Why or why not?

Why would the psalmist use the example of a sparrow and a swallow finding rest and security in the presence of God in **verse 3**? What truth is this meant to reveal for us? How does this make you feel (**v.4**)?

A sparrow is one of the smallest birds.

When we think about ourselves in relation to God, should we focus on our smallness (compared to God) or our significance (being created in the image of God)? Or both? Why? Read **Luke 8:43-48** together and discuss the implications

A sparrow is always on the lookout for a home; a place to rest.

Do you think restlessness describes many people in our world today? Why? What can make you feel restless? What brings you a sense of peace?

Read **Matthew 11:28** together and discuss Jesus' invitation.

A sparrow is often helpless against larger predators.

As human beings, are we ultimately helpless? Why or why not?

What are the things in life that can reveal our helplessness or defencelessness?

Do you agree with the following statement: *"Our relationship with God begins with a recognition of our helplessness"*? Why or why not? Consider **Matthew 9:13**



## SERVE OTHERS

*Valuing people outside the group and outside the faith*

In light of what this psalm has revealed about us (our smallness, our helplessness, and our defencelessness), what should characterise our attitude towards others, both inside and outside the church? Share what this might look like in practice for you.

## PRAY ALWAYS

*Devoting ourselves to prayer*

*Our Father in heaven,*

*Help us to have a proper understanding of who You are and who we are so that we may worship You with appropriate reverence and awe. We long to be with You. We rejoice at the opportunity to worship You in this age, but we especially look forward to the age to come. We long for a day in Your courts above. Help us, Lord. You have blessed us, and we trust in You.*

*Amen*

# PSALM 84

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to  
the living God.

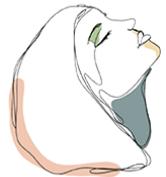
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay  
her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.  
As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain  
also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before  
God in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah  
Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of  
wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and  
honour No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.  
O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!







# LIMITING GOD

PSALM 78:40-43

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## SHARE LIFE

*Building healthy and life-giving relationships*

Spend 20–30 minutes checking in with each other. Share what has been new, challenging, or encouraging in your life. Share what God has been teaching you or ways in which God has been changing you recently.

## PURSUE GOD

*Growing in knowledge of God and Christ-likeness*

**Psalm 78:** This is one of the “historical psalms”, which reviews aspects of Israel’s history, doing so to instruct present and future generations so they would learn lessons from the past. The psalmist signals his intent to instruct in a general purpose statement (vv.1-8). God performed mighty acts in the exodus and the early wilderness wanderings (vv.9-16). He provided food for his people, yet they complained (vv.17-31). Israel recklessly vacillated between turning to God and turning away (vv.32-39), and God acted on their behalf in the wonders in Egypt and the entry into the promised land (vv.40-55). Yet Israel did not learn its lessons and repeatedly tested God in the time of the judges (vv.56-64). — **NIV Zondervan Study Bible**

### Read Psalm 78:1-8

What does the psalmist want future generations to know and not forget about God (vv.4-7)?

What “praiseworthy deeds” is the psalmist referring to (vv.12-16)?

What “praiseworthy deeds” should we be talking about and passing on?

What is the consequence of forgetting what God has done (v.8)?

Have you ever experienced this to be true in your life?

Whose responsibility is it to see that the next generation do not forget (v.4)?  
What application does this have for your life? For our church?

### Read Psalm 78:40-43

In **verse 41**, the psalmist brings a particular charge against the rebellious people of God; they *“provoked the Holy One of Israel”*. Other translations describe this as *“limiting God”*. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones says: *“They provoked Him in his way: in their unbelief and in their failure to receive His promises and to believe them and to act upon them, they stood between themselves and the many blessings which God had offered them and promised them so freely.”*

How can we also be guilty of ‘limiting God’?  
What are some ways you do this in your life?  
What causes us to ‘limit God’ in our lives?

After you have given your answers, consider and discuss the following suggestions:  
Disobedience, self-reliance, ignorance, unbelief, wrong belief.  
Which of these are you most susceptible to? What can you do to overcome them?



## SERVE OTHERS

*Valuing people outside the group and outside the faith*

How does 'limiting God' impact on our ability to witness to others?

In what area of your relationship with God would you like to grow?  
What are some steps you can take this year to know God more deeply?  
Spend time praying for one another in these areas.

## PRAY ALWAYS

*Devoting ourselves to prayer*

*Almighty God,*

*Speak to us, Lord, that we might remember Your works, and that the next generation might know You. We praise and thank You that our rebellion has been overcome through the great redemptive work of Your Son on the cross. We marvel at the provision You have granted to us. You have gathered Your church. You have brought us the fulfilment of every good purpose in Your eternal plan. You provide for us everything that we need day by day. What a kind and mighty God You are. Because of your commitment to Your name, because of Your covenant with Your Son, You have granted us everything necessary that we might live with You in perfect blessedness now and forevermore. We thank you, Lord.*

*Amen*

## PSALM 78:1-8

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!  
I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
things that we have heard and known,  
that our fathers have told us.  
We will not hide them from their children,  
but tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.

He established a testimony in Jacob  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our fathers  
to teach to their children,  
that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and arise and tell them to their children,  
so that they should set their hope in God  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;  
and that they should not be like their fathers,  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,  
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,  
whose spirit was not faithful to God.

## PSALM 78:40-43

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness  
and grieved him in the desert!  
They tested God again and again  
and provoked the Holy One of Israel.  
They did not remember his power  
or the day when he redeemed them from the foe,  
when he performed his signs in Egypt  
and his marvels in the fields of Zoan.







# GOD, MY GOD

## PSALM 63

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### SHARE LIFE

*Building healthy and life-giving relationships*

Spend 20–30 minutes checking in with each other. Share what has been new, challenging, or encouraging in your life. Share what God has been teaching you or ways in which God has been changing you recently.

### PURSUE GOD

*Growing in knowledge of God and Christ-likeness*

**Psalm 63:** This may be classified as a psalm of confidence, expressing faith in God. The psalmist begins by expressing his longing for God as he looks to God's temple (vv. 1–2). He then praises God for His steadfast love (vv. 3–4), explaining how remembering God is enough to satisfy him (vv. 5–8). He shows confidence that God will judge his enemies (vv. 9–10) and concludes by praising God (v. 11). — **Faithlife Study Bible**

#### Read Psalm 63

*“If you really want to know whether you are a Christian or not, the simplest, most direct way, always, is to discover what you are like when things go against you.”* Do you agree? Why or why not? Can you think of any Scriptures that might support this view?

This psalm finds David in a time of trial and testing (**vv.1, 9**). Think of a particularly difficult time in your life. How did you respond? How was your relationship to God affected? What about your relationship to others? What helped you make it through?

How did David instinctively respond to his trial (**v.1**)? What can this teach us about how we should respond when times of trial and testing come?

David does not approach God doubtfully and uncertainly; he knows that he belongs to God. What phrases seem to suggest that David knew God intimately and turned to him regularly? Why is this important when trials come? How can we build this same awareness in our lives?

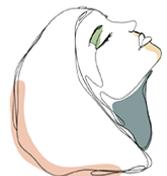
Re-read **verse 3**. In your own words, explain what David is saying in this verse. How specifically is the love of God better than life? How should this truth change the way you approach life?

Re-read **verse 5**. Where do we often look for satisfaction? How does God fully satisfy those who trust in him? Have you experienced this reality in your life?

What do you notice about the second half of **verses 3, 4, and 5**? What does this tell us about our proper response to God and to his love? How is this more than just believing in God intellectually?

The Westminster Shorter Catechism says: *“The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever”*. Do you praise God? Do you thank him? Do you rejoice in him? Reflect on these questions and discuss how you might begin to make praise a normal part of your life.

**Put it into practice:** St. John Chrysostom advised reading this psalm daily. Try it for the next week and share with the group your experience next time you meet.



## SERVE OTHERS

*Valuing people outside the group and outside the faith*

How can our response to trials actually be one of our greatest opportunities to witness to others about Jesus? Have you ever found this to be true in your life?

## PRAY ALWAYS

*Devoting ourselves to prayer*

*Lord God,*

*You have put something within us that longs for You. You have made our souls alive to Your goodness. We praise You when we are together, and we praise You in secret communion. No matter how dangerous the enemies against us may be, You are our refuge and our help.*

*Amen*

# PSALM 63

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.  
Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.  
So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; they shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.







# ALWAYS BEFORE ME

## PSALM 27

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### SHARE LIFE

*Building healthy and life-giving relationships*

Spend 20–30 minutes checking in with each other. Share what has been new, challenging, or encouraging in your life. Share what God has been teaching you or ways in which God has been changing you recently.

### PURSUE GOD

*Growing in knowledge of God and Christ-likeness*

**Psalm 16:** This is a psalm of confidence as the psalmist shows his trust in God. After the opening petition (v. 1), the psalmist expresses contentment in God and contrasts the saints (or holy people) with those who follow another god (vv. 2–4). He confidently blesses God (vv. 5–6) and praises Him for the safety and security He provides (vv. 7–11). — **Faithlife Study Bible**

#### Read Psalm 16

In this psalm, David is telling us how he faces the future. How do you feel as you think about the future? Do you feel excited? Anxious? Uncertain? Why?

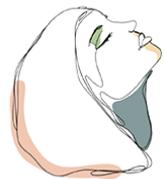
For what blessings does David praise God in **verses 5-7**? Discuss what you think he means be each of them.

Re-read **verse 8**. What is David's attitude towards the future? How would you put this in your own words? Share a time in your life when God was your refuge.

David says, "I keep my eyes always on the Lord". Other translations say, "I have set the Lord always before me." What does this mean? What would it look like for you to do this?

What is the significance of the word "always"? Consider the following from D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones: "When the Lord is visiting us, we need not set Him before us, we know that He is there and we have got to respond. No, the time to do it is when we do not feel it, and when we feel dry and barren and arid—then we must set Him before us."

How does keeping our eyes on God in the present help us to navigate the future as it comes? How might it change our ability to deal with temptation? Trouble? Even death? Have you found this to be true in your life? Have you seen this in the lives of others?



## SERVE OTHERS

*Valuing people outside the group and outside the faith*

Is there anyone in your life who does not yet know Jesus who you could begin to pray for regularly and consistently?

## PRAY ALWAYS

*Devoting ourselves to prayer*

*God, our God,*

*You are our strong hope for the future. We belong to You. We will not follow other gods. You are our portion. Our inheritance is beautiful. You are with us and our hearts are glad. We have eternal pleasures at Your right hand forevermore.*

*Amen*

# PSALM 16

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.







# SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD

## PSALM 16

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### SHARE LIFE

*Building healthy and life-giving relationships*

Spend 20–30 minutes checking in with each other. Share what has been new, challenging, or encouraging in your life. Share what God has been teaching you or ways in which God has been changing you recently.

### PURSUE GOD

*Growing in knowledge of God and Christ-likeness*

**Psalm 27:** The psalmist expresses trust that God will provide victory against his enemies (vv. 1–3). He then expresses his desire to dwell in God’s presence in the temple, repeating his belief that God will give him victory (vv. 4–6). He petitions God to hear his cry, guide him, and deliver him from his enemies (vv. 7–12). He then expresses his confidence in God and encourages others to wait on Him (vv. 13–14). — **Faithlife Study Bible**

#### Read Psalm 27

Which three characteristics of God does David recall in **verse 1**? What do you think he means by each? How does each of them give confidence to David (**vv.2-3**)?

What word is repeated in **verses 4–8**? What does this tell us about David’s deepest desire? What does it actually mean to seek the face of God? What are some ways you seek the face of God in your life? How can you seek God’s face with more consistency and intensity this year?

**Further study:** To seek the face of God means to desire the utmost intimacy with God (Ps. 24:6; 105:4; 1 Chr. 16:11; 2 Chr. 7:14; Hos. 5:15). Two individuals saw God “face to face”: Jacob (Gen. 32:30) and Moses (Ex. 33:11; Deut. 34:10). But to encounter God directly (i.e., to see the fullness of his glory) was not granted to anyone, lest they die (Ex. 33:18-23). But God has now graciously revealed his glory to us supremely in Jesus Christ (John 1:18; 6:46; 1 John 4:12).

How does David’s description of seeking the face of God, particularly in **verse 4**, go beyond mere intellectual belief in God? Why does this matter? Consider **Matthew 22:37**

In **verse 6**, David turns to the response of praise. Why is praise so important to our relationship with God? How should praise shape our prayers? Consider **Philippians 4:6**

In your own words, explain the meaning and significance of **verse 10**.

Why is it important that David concludes this psalm with a plea to “*wait for the Lord*” (**v.14**)?



## SERVE OTHERS

*Valuing people outside the group and outside the faith*

What has been your take-away from this series? How are you going to put it into practice?

## PRAY ALWAYS

*Devoting ourselves to prayer*

*God of our Salvation,*

*There is no one like You. No matter how great the danger, our hope and confidence is in You. Please bring us to Your heavenly presence. We are with You even now in Christ. We long to be close to You and to see You. Be near us now. You are the God of our salvation. Lead us on a level path. Make us more alive to you, our God. We wait for you, O Lord.*

*Amen*

# PSALM 27

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

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?

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

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

One 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.

For 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.

And 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.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!  
You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."  
Hide 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!  
For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.  
Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; or false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they breathe out violence.

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!  
Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!





Growth Group Guide