

Psalms: Psalm 33

? Where is your favorite place to sing? What is your typical volume level?

The book of Psalms is a collection of song lyrics. Like many songs, they were first written in response to events in the lives of their authors. Later, the whole community used them in worship. When Israel returned from exile in Babylon many of the songs from over the centuries were collected in the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms thus operates at two levels: individually the songs explore a wide variety of honest spiritual responses to God, while the overall collection tells, and celebrates, the work of God in history to save his people. (The Holy Bible, New International Version, Psalms Intro)

There are a multitude of resources available to us. Here are a few options if you're looking for a different way to interact with the Psalm this week:

Streetlights Bible App/website

Bible Project

SpokenGospel.com

The Psalms Project

Consider a variety of ways you could read the Psalm outloud. One voice. A different voice for each verse. Call and response style line by line with two groups of voices. All out loud together. Start with a whisper, grow to a reasonable shout.

Psalm 33 (NIV)

- ¹ Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
- ² Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
- ³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.
- ⁴ For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.
- ⁵ The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.
- ⁶ By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
- ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.
- ⁸ Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him.
- ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.
- ¹⁰ The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
- ¹¹ But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.
- ¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.
- ¹³ From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind;
- ¹⁴ from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—
- ¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

- ¹⁶ No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength.
¹⁷ A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.
¹⁸ But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
¹⁹ to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.
²⁰ We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.
²¹ In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.
²² May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

? What initial observations do you have of this Psalm?

? What are some of the reasons we are directed in this Psalm to “praise him” (vs 1)?

Possible answers: the word is right and true, we can trust everything he does, he created, he rescues, he is our help and shield, etc.

? Verses 6-9 remind us God spoke and it came to be (NIV), it was done (NASB), the world began (NLT). Thinking back to Genesis (see Genesis 1-2 if necessary), what are some of the highlights and nuances of the way God created all things?

Possible answers: Answers will vary. Remind one another of the realities of his power, creativity, intentionality & purposefulness, etc. He had a plan. He is worthy of our praise.

John 1:1-14 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

? Compare and contrast the “in the beginning” passages from both Genesis and John - what was the context, happening around the author, purpose of this passage?

Possible answers: Answers will vary

? What is worthy of our praise in this John passage?

Possible answers: The true light gives light to everyone (vs 9), full of grace and truth (v 14), Word became flesh (v 14)

? In both the Psalm and John passages, where do we see God intervening on our behalf?

For Discussion and Accountability

? Where did you find God as your help, shield, light, truth, etc. this past week? Take some time to praise him & reflect on places we have room to grow & trust him more in areas of your life.

? Are there places in your life you’re waiting for God to intervene on your behalf? What truths can we remind you of this week? How can we come alongside you in this season of waiting?