



STUDENT
MINISTRIES
FIRST PRES



STUDENTS'
WORSHIP
GUIDE



What David Knew
series

THIS WORSHIP GUIDE BELONGS TO:



HEY STUDENTS!

This worship guide is a tool to use as we go through our current sermon series, *What David Knew*. In this series, we'll be taking a little walk through some of the Psalms written by David. These Psalms are filled with everything from joy in what the Lord has done, to despair over the evil that's in the world. And they all point us to one thing: Jesus.

There is so much to learn in every passage of Scripture, so this worship guide gives you a place to reflect on what is said from up front during worship, but also dig into the verses in a deeper and more personal way.

We've already filled this guide with annotations, quotes from pastors, and activities, but we hope you will take notes on your own and ask whatever questions you have. If something doesn't make sense, jot it down. If a passage is encouraging or changes the way you look at life, highlight it.

Use the guide when you're listening to the preaching, bring it with you to your small group, and keep it handy for your personal devotional time. We pray that you will grow to know God and yourself more through the words of David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22).

Lots of love,

Harper and Heather

HARPER TICE

Associate of Middle School Ministries

mobile: 717-860-6091

office: 719-884-6204

htice@firstprescos.org

HEATHER GREEN

Associate of High School Ministries

mobile: 847-691-4017

office: 719-884-6234

hgreen@firstprescos.org



PSALM 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

This Psalm is often described as one of confidence in God's care. Why is that? What other reasons make you feel confident in God's care for you?

We're not promised life will be easy!

As believers, we're told the world will hate us (John 15:18) but also that people will know us by our love (John 13:35). How do we make sense of this?

Share a story of God's goodness to you in your life!

MY NOTES: _____

DIG IN:

Tell your small group about your ideal day off to recharge, start to finish. What are you doing, where are you going, how are you spending the time? What are the things that help you feel refreshed?

In this Psalm, David is talking about how God refreshes his soul (v.3). What would it look like in your life to let God be the one to recharge you and give you full life? What one thing can you do this week to rest in God? Write it below so you don't forget, then check in next week to see if you were able to do that. What was it like?

David draws on his experience as a shepherd who tended actual sheep and reflects that imagery onto God. Being a shepherd, David had to provide food, rest, refreshment and protection for his sheep (see 1 Samuel 17:34-37), and he has come to know the heart of God in the same way—as the Good Shepherd, who faithfully provides, protects and gives rest to us.

– College Ministries Director Andy Morrison



PSALM 8

For the director of music.

According to gittith. A Psalm of David.

¹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. ² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. ³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Quick Hebrew lesson: this LORD means Yahweh—the name for the personal God who knows and loves His people.

This word is Adonai, the name for the God who rules over everything in all creation.

What does it mean that these two names for God are used together?

What does this mean about your identity?
Who does God say you are?

This is how David begins and ends the Psalm—but why? What is so important about this phrase?

This Psalm is full of grand imagery yet also a very intriguing question! What responsibility and opportunity is presented here in this passage?

– Worship Leader Chris Cullins



MY NOTES: _____

DIG IN:

David is making a list of all the things he sees in the world that remind him of God's majesty. What does the word majesty mean? Come up with a definition as a group, then spend some time together making a list of all the places you see God's majesty. Maybe that's in nature, relationships, art or something else, but take some time to think of as many things as you can, then hold onto this list to remind you of God's goodness any time you need it!

PSALM 14

For the director of music. Of David.

¹ The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

² The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

³ All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

⁴ Do all these evildoers know nothing? They devour my people as though eating bread; they never call on the LORD.

⁵ But there they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous. ⁶ You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.

⁷ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

In Hebrew, this has nothing to do with intelligence. It points to someone who rejects wisdom.

See Romans 3:9

Does this mean that if we're stressed, it's because we're sinful?

Where do you feel safe—like you can most be yourself? Is this feeling something you could also have from God?

We are all in the process of being restored! How does that make you feel? Where do we need restoration?

MY NOTES:

DIG IN:

Have you ever had an experience that made you think, “Gosh, it just isn’t supposed to be this way”? Maybe you’ve felt really anxious, and you knew it wasn’t how God intended you to feel. Maybe you’ve lost a family member and wondered why people die. Maybe you’ve had a fight with a friend and thought about how conflict is so hard. Maybe it’s something else. We’ve all had experiences that show us that things around us aren’t the way God intended for us, but this passage talks about how the Lord will restore His people (v.7).

Think about that thing in your life that you’d want God to restore. What would it look like this week to pray, journal or talk to a mentor about that thing? What does the word “refuge” mean? What does it look like to let God be your refuge (v.6) during the hard things?

David is taking on the
atheists. Good ... wait, what?
He’s talking to me? But I’m
not an atheist. I believe in
God; I go to church. Why
would this be about me?
Hmmm ... are there ways I
live day to day as if God
didn’t exist?

– Pastor Junior McGarrahan



PSALM 25

Psalm of David.

¹ In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. ² I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ³ No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

⁴ Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. ⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. ⁹ He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. ¹⁰ All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

¹¹ For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. ¹² Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose. ¹³ They will spend their days in prosperity, and their descendants will inherit the land. ¹⁴ The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. ¹⁵ My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. ¹⁷ Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. ¹⁸ Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

¹⁹ See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me! ²⁰ Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. ²¹ May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, LORD, is in you.

²² Deliver Israel, O God, from all their troubles!

Does this mean we will always have sparkling reputations?

How can we better see God's ways? (Try to go beyond just saying "read your Bible and pray.")

What is your hope in? How do you know?

This isn't new. This love is who He is, always has been and always will be.

See the "Dig In" section for more on God's covenant with David!

Why is it sometimes so hard to forgive? Does the reminder that God lovingly forgives us impact how you view Him?

David makes a lot of requests of God here. What do these requests tell you about how David views God? Do you see Him the same way?

King David opens his song to God by declaring that his trust is in God alone. What a great way to open our hearts in worship! What else is on David's heart here in Psalm 25? How might your heart be even more turned to Jesus this week through Psalm 25?

– Pastor Michael Thornton



MY NOTES:

DIG IN:

A covenant is an agreement between two parties. Covenants fall into two categories: conditional and unconditional. Look back at the unconditional covenant God makes with David in 2 Samuel 7:12–16. This covenant stands no matter what David does with it, and God makes an unconditional promise to love us, no matter how often we mess up.

What other promises does God make in Scripture? How do these apply to us today? How is our life different knowing that God makes an unconditional promise to love us?

PSALM 51

For the director of music. A Psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. ¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Have you ever felt like you did something too awful for God to forgive?

What does this mean? Do you believe God can do this for you?

David talked about restoration a lot in these passages. What would restoration look like in your life?

This is the only time David speaks of himself doing anything in this whole passage. How does that impact how you conduct your life?

What does this look like? How do we do this?



Dig deep to discover what David believes about God’s character that allows him to pray this transparent prayer of confession.

– Pastor Linda Boyles

DIG IN:

David is writing this letter asking for forgiveness from God. He writes about his sin and God’s love and compassion, and then in verse 17, he writes, “My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.” In this line David is showing us that the only thing he really has to bring to God (after he has messed up pretty big) is himself in all his brokenness. He brings himself before God, trusting that God will take him in.

Is there something in your life that just feels too messy or broken to bring before God? Do you ever feel like your spirit is worn down? No pressure to share with your group, but think of that thing, and spend some time below writing about what it would look like to bring that thing before God this week, trusting that He can hold all parts of you, even the messiness.

MY NOTES:

PSALM 27

Of David.

¹ 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?

² When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

⁶ Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷ Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

⁸ My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek. ⁹ Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.

¹⁰ Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.

¹¹ Teach me your way, LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. ¹² Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.

¹³ I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

If you had only one request for your life, what would it be? How would that actually play out in your life? How would a request like David's play out?

This is a response to the Lord's work in David's life. What does it look like for you to respond to God's work in your life?

Will God reject us? Find other verses to help you answer.

David asks for God's guidance BECAUSE of his oppressors—why is that?

What does it look like to wait for the Lord? Is this easy for you? David is CONFIDENT in God's protection throughout this Psalm. Where do you need this kind of confidence in your life? How can you grow it?

MY NOTES: _____

DIG IN:

Most of this passage is written about the future, about what David expects to see of God someday, and he ends this Psalm saying that he will continue to wait for the Lord. What is the longest you’ve ever had to wait for something you really wanted (e.g., getting a new phone, the line at Chick-fil-A)? What was it like to wait? What are the things you see David waiting for in this passage? How is this type of waiting different than the kind of waiting we usually do? Is there anything you are waiting for God to do in your life? What is that like?

So many things compete for your attention—the next big assignment, challenges at home, your social life, extra-curric-ulars, college applications. In this Psalm, David says that there’s one important thing: to be close to God. Everything else falls into place when the Lord is his central focus; could that be true for you?

– Pastor Greg Hartnett



PSALM 103

Of David.

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

² Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— ³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children— ¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. ¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. ²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. ²² Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, my soul.

What "benefits" do you get from God?

Does this mean we'll always get what we want? What is David saying here?

David remembers what God has done in the past and is using that to praise Him now. Are there things you can remember that God has done in the past that help you know God is good now?

What an amazing promise!

Do you have people in your life who give you a glimpse of what God's love and compassion are like?

If God is with us and for us for all eternity, we can trust Him in our everyday lives. What do you need to trust Him with today?

We are part of God's unexpected family who are brought together by Jesus. How does that impact how we see and treat other people?



All throughout the book of Psalms, we get a peek into the ways God's people respond to who God is and what He does. When David really sees "all [God's] benefits" (103:2), he is able to praise Yahweh for all that He is. As you read these words, allow yourself to be filled with overflowing praise to the God who loves you and calls you His own!

– Pastor Matt Holtzman

MY NOTES: _____

DIG IN:

Look at the prompts below and create your own Psalm of praise, then read through the new Psalm you've created. What do you notice?

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD...

For a time you've been forgiven:

For something He's done for you:

Because He is (3 adjectives for how you see God):

Because He knows this about you:

Because of what you see in His creation (name 3 things):

Because you see His love in:

Praise the LORD, my soul.

REFLECTION:

Two columns of horizontal lines for writing reflections.



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June 10 – 13 in Black Forest, CO
For incoming 6th – 8th graders



HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER RETREAT

July 30 – August 1 in Fairplay, CO
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