



# Sermon Growth Guide

**May 9, 2021**

**What David Knew - Guide**

**Psalm 25**

**Key Verse:** Psalm 25:5 "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

**Big Idea:** We can trust and obey God, our good guide.

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## Foundations

Happy Mother's Day! There's a thematic tie today between how King David knew God was his guide and how very often mothers are great guides. Who has been a faithful, guiding mother to you over the years? Let them know today and celebrate them!

Pastor Tim writes: "A guide doesn't just give you the answer but shows you how to apply it. If you have knowledge, that's only the first step. Knowing when to apply it is just as important. Knowledge without application is like having poison ivy cream in your cabinet and never rubbing any on the rash."

Where is God leading you in this season? How can you apply what you have learned from Scripture, your guiding arm?

Spend time this week sharing with one another how you have been guided well, perhaps by a mother in your life. What does good guiding look like? Using that image, discuss when you have felt the guiding arm of the Lord. Did you follow Him? Pray for our mothers in the church, thanking God for the way in which they model for us God's guiding arm.

## Understanding God's Word

Where does David place his trust throughout this psalm?

What is David's request in verse five?

What stands out to you most in this psalm, and why?

## Applying God's Word

We can trust and obey God, our good guide.

Take time to describe a time in your life when you've been faced with a difficult decision. Perhaps you wanted to go one way, but you knew God's way was the other way. God is our good guide, but it isn't always easy to follow Him, as our pride can easily get in the way. Discern with your circle how you can cultivate even deeper resilience in following your good Guide.

## Witnessing God's Word

One image brought to bear on our minds this weekend is the image of being lost as a result of not following our guide. Pray for the lost around you, that God would use you, His hands and feet, to show the way.

**No matter where you are, there is a Psalm to reach you and lead you back home to God.**

How grateful we are for any guides in our lives! It is fun to celebrate all those graduations. They had guides to help them along. We also celebrate the guides. We have a lot of mountain-bikers in our church. There are a few men I've had the pleasure of following along, my front tire just a few feet behind their back tire, as we pick our way through trails. Joe Simpich, Sam Edwards. The problem is I'm so used to following them I don't pay attention to the trails. Last weekend I had a friend in from Atlanta and I was the guide. We got lost. A lot. I'm grateful for good guides. We are also grateful for mothers today. We all have different stories, some good, some bad, but how grateful we can all be for God's gift of mothers and how they guide! I'm grateful for mine, who many of you know, Nancy Brummett. She's not only a guide to me, but to many, with the books and articles she's written! And I'm grateful for how Abigail guides our kids (and their dad). Happy Mother's Day to the moms. It's not an easy gig; especially this year.

In our series, ***What David Knew***, we are finding Jesus in the Psalms of David. David knew that God is a good guide. A guide doesn't just give you the answer but shows you how to apply it. If you have knowledge, that's only the first step. Knowing when to apply it is just as important. Knowledge without application is like having poison ivy cream in your cabinet and never rubbing any on the rash. A guide doesn't just tell you the answer but

shows you the way. There was a great little blog a while back called *Why Mentoring Is Better Than Asking Alexa*, by Melissa Kruger. Alexa can throw information at you but can't give you wisdom. Kruger writes, "In our digital age, it's helpful to remember the importance of real-life relationships and the benefits of older believers in the faith who can offer us wisdom, presence, and pursuit. We may love the convenience of Alexa, but we deeply need the care of spiritual mentoring." That's a big part of who God has called us to be, First Pres. Mentors. Guides. Helping each other along. You need a good guide. God is a good guide. That's what David knew. And it kind of reminds you of a certain Galilean from Nazareth who had a knack for saying, "Follow me."

We know we are missing something when we suddenly need it. When David was king, he wanted to restore Jerusalem to its place as the spiritual center of the nation. He remembered that the Ark of the Covenant had been left down with the Philistines and he resolved to get it back. On this side of Jesus it's hard to understand, but before we could have the Holy Spirit in us, because of Jesus' perfect atoning sacrifice on the cross, the people had to use symbols to draw near to the presence of God. The Ark was such a symbol. Only Levites could carry it, and only in the way God told them to, on long poles on their shoulders run through gold rings—never touching it by hand. Well, long story short, David



didn't do it that way. He sent a cart. It would be faster, easier, more expedient, and God won't care, will He? The cart got rocked, the Ark got bumped, a man reached out to steady it, touched it, and died. That seems so strange to you and me, but that's the thing with having a guide, you have to do what they say. David learned, what matters to God must matter to us. He had the Ark brought up by Levites. David danced before the Lord as the Ark came into the city. When we submit, do things God's way, we find more freedom and joy than we ever thought possible.

That's the sort of thing that produced Psalm 25. David prays, "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long" (Psalms 25:4-5). Don't just teach me, show me. Don't just teach me, guide me! God does that. God guides us. God is a good guide. Here are a quick three reasons why God is a good guide:

**(1) You can trust Him with your soul.** "In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame" (Psalms 25:1-2). "I put my trust" is a little weak. The Hebrew says, "I lift up my soul, my nephesh, before you." Like offering something up on an altar. Like lifting something up to the Lord in your open hands, only it's your very soul, your very life. You can do this with God. You can trust Him. Sometimes you have to remind yourself, remind your soul, who do you trust? Trust in God.

God is a good guide because **(2) His ways are good and healthy.** "Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant" (Psalms 25:8-10). The world is so backward, it thinks going God's way and following God's teaching will be toxic or harmful. Never. Look at these words, "good," "upright," "right," "loving," "faithful." That's who God is. That's what God's teaching is. The ways this guide wants to lead you are good, healthy, life-giving ways.

God is a good guide because **(3) He is patient and forgiving.** Any parents teaching their kids to drive? Guard my life and rescue me! (Verse 20) "Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish" (Psalms 25:17). Maybe just tape this whole Psalm to the dash. "Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins" (Psalms 25:18). God takes away our sins. He forgives. "Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good" (Psalms 25:6-7). Saint Augustine preached on this Psalm saying, "O God, please do remember me, not in the anger of which I am worthy, but in your mercy, which is worthy of you, and this because of your goodness, O Lord, not because of what is due to



me, Lord, but because of your own goodness.” Lord, don’t look on me with glasses that see all my errors; put on those glasses of grace, look on me according to your love. That’s grace.

God is a good guide. We want to be good students, good disciples, good followers. Three things we need to do are: **(1) Be Humble.** Humility is so key. “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way” (Psalms 25:9). Augustine again: “He will teach his ways not to those who want to run on ahead, as if they could rule themselves better than he can, but to those who do not strut about with their heads in the air, or dig in their heels, when his easy yoke and light burden are set upon them.” Are you humble enough to be guided; to be guided by God? **(2) Be Responsive.** If God guides you, will you go where He guides? I remember being taught that when you get a chance to sit with someone you admire, a mentor, write down what they tell you, try it, and get back to them about how it went. They are more likely to give you more advice if you do. Be responsive. Verses 12 and 14 talk about the “fear of the Lord.” “Who, then, are those who fear the Lord? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose” (Psalms 25:12). Fear here is not terror that makes you run away, but reverence that makes you respond—an inner responsiveness and willingness to learn. **(3) Be Willing.** “My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare”

(Psalms 25:15). Your eyes. You follow where your eyes lead. Set your eyes on Him.

That reminds me a little of a man from Galilee who kept saying “Follow me.” One time, His disciples were crossing the lake and Jesus came walking out on the waves. They were terrified, but Jesus said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” (Matthew 14:28–30). And do you know what the Lord did? He let him drown. No. He saved him. It matters where you keep your eyes, doesn’t it? God is a good guide. His ways are always good. Even the paths across the surface of the water! They are good, and safe, and right when your eyes are on Him. When you falter, He will save. We are not following a list of rules here, we are not following a coaching manual here, we are not following a recipe we might mess up and ruin, we are following a Savior. A Savior. “Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long” (Psalms 25:5). That’s what David knew.

