



Closer to Our God

Lamenting to God

'I pour out my complaint before Him'

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Closer to Our God

Outline of Studies:

1 - *'men of my counsel'*

Making the most of the Psalms

2 - *'I pour out my complaint before Him'*

Lamenting to God

3 - *'Hallelujah'*

Praising God

4 - *'his heart is steadfast'*

Responding to God

5 - *'my heart is overflowing with a good theme'*

Majesty of the King

2

Getting the most from the Psalms

Tips and Ideas For Reading the Psalms Effectively (see handout)

Psalms - Lamenting to God

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Reading the Psalms

Some challenges:

1. Poetic language
2. General language
3. Imprecatory language
4. Enemy and battle language

Psalms - Lamenting to God

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Value of Poetic Language?

Lord, do not be too angry with me

Be kind to me; I am weak and need help.

I feel awful.
How long will I wait?

Come back, Lord, and save me.

I am going to die, and will not be able to praise you when death comes.

I tired of groaning and crying all night.

My enemies are making me sad.

O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed

My soul is also soar vexed: But thou, O LORD, how long?

Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies sake.

For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with tears.

Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.

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Your Words... Psalm 52

Vs. 1-4

You wicked man! You love all the wrong things. God's goodness is always present, but you choose to love everything that is evil.

Vs. 5-7

God will certainly remove you and permanently bring an end to your ways. And all the faithful people you have harmed will clearly see what God will do to you, and they will laugh as your false securities are shown to be nothing.

Vs. 8-9

But I know that I am safe, secure and vibrant in faith when I am with you. All of my trust and securities I have placed on you and I know that this means I have an everlasting hope. I know I will praise you forever with all the others who trust in your name.

Elements of Lament

Psalm 13 flow of thought?

vs. 1-2: Complaint

vs. 3-4: Plea

vs. 5-6: Confidence

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Talking with God...

...in distress: COMPLAINT
“Why?”

PLEA
“Help!”

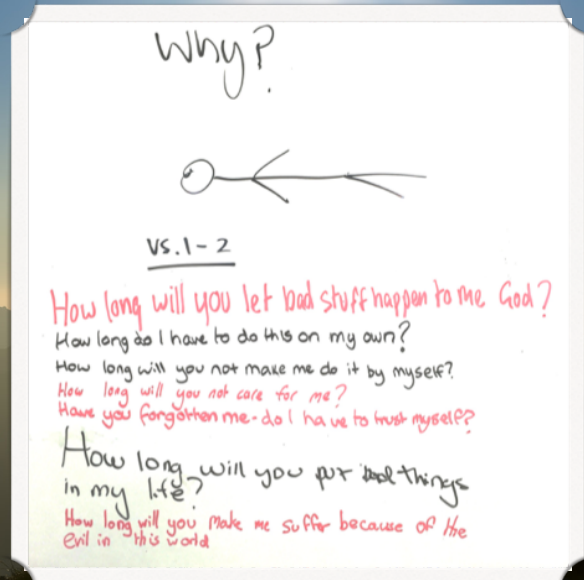
CONFIDENCE
“I know...”

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Psalm 13 - Year 10 Class

Say it in a sentence:

1. How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever?
how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?
2. How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily?
how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me



Psalms - Lamenting to God

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Pouring Out

“Few of us make claims on God’s help to the extent to which it is available, or lay our lives so completely on His strength as we might.”

~ Bro. Charles Mason, *The Hour of Prayer*, p.8



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Waiting for God

Abraham and Sarah (Abraham was 100 and Sarah 90! Heb. 6:5)
Zecharias and Elizabeth
Joseph
Moses
Israel as a Nation – during exile and after!; in Egypt (400 years)
Hannah
Caleb
Esther
Job (see James)
Simeon
Paul – waiting for lots of things (thorn, imprisonments, etc.)

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Teenagers & Prayer

“In times of adversity and trouble, it is not unusual to try all kinds of ‘solutions’ and ‘cures,’ only to find that we have ignored the greatest cure of all time: PRAYER.

This is particularly true of the teenage years when we have plenty of energy, and pride ourselves in achievements, frequently taking matters into our own hands - only to find ourselves more deeply mired into the problem. Then, as a last resort, we turn to prayer!”

~ Shane Kingsbury, *Teenagers of the Bible*, p. 141

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Causes for Complaint

Serious illness	6; 13; 38; 51; 69; 88
Guilt and anxiety as a result of sin	25; 38:4; 51
Captivity: Israel's national sufferings	79; 80; 89; 44
False accusations, slander, etc.	7:3; 26:1,6; 27:2,12
Evildoers and their apparent success / prosperity	14; 53; 73
Various historical incidents - David	3; 18; 34; 54; 56
Estrangement from God - personal	6; 22; 42; 43

Psalms - Lamenting to God

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'when my heart is overwhelmed'

- hurt
- *suffering*
 - anger
 - *depression*
 - guilt
 - *loneliness*
 - feeling of inadequacy
 - *loss of direction in life*
 - feeling that God doesn't care - doubt?
 - *struggle with private temptations*
 - knowledge of other's sins or hypocrisy
 - *frustration with ecclesial life*
 - frustration with family life
 - *feelings of being STRESSED OUT*

14



'You number my
wanderings,
put my tears into
Your bottle'

Psalm 56:8



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Lift up your head...

However great the burden, however irreplaceable the loss, however terrible the desolation which brings about our sorrow, for the follower of Jesus the moment must come when, **having poured all his tears into God's bottle**, he lifts up the head and says: "*Arise, and let us be going.*"

~ Harry Tennant, *The Man David*, p. 45

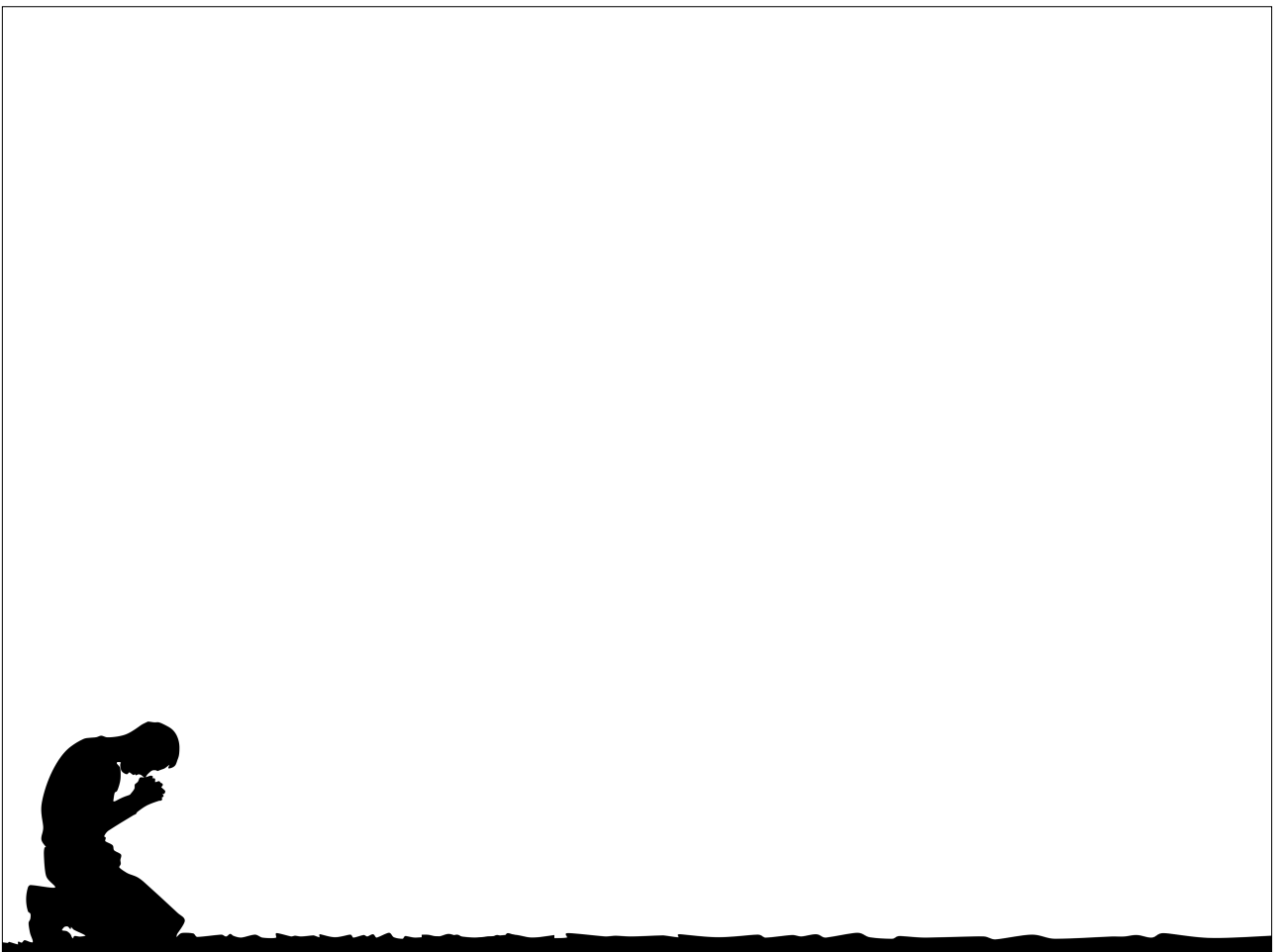
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Using the Psalms Deeply

“Read the Word. Think deeply over it. Pray over it. Pray with it. Pray through it. But no short cuts; no ‘*six easy lessons!*’ There is a price to be paid, in full! Time must be invested. Other lesser activities must go. Some cherished pastimes will have to be neglected. But oh, the dynamic you will introduce into their place!”

~ Bro. Charles Mason, *The Hour of Prayer*, p.4





The Psalms

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