

Glimpses of God in the Psalms

A Note of Introduction

It is not until we still our busy lives, take time to read God's message in the Psalms, and listen with our hearts that we will come to better know God. Then we will see God's power, righteousness, justice, holiness, mercy, protection, salvation and love. Man is made in God's image and as we study Psalms to **know God's character**, we learn how He intends for us to be.

The book of Psalms can touch our very core as not only reflected by the psalmist David but by many others. Psalms is a collection of poetry put to music; ranging from deep longing to jubilant expression of joy. **God's creation exalts and petitions Him**. Also, Psalms exalts the truth of God's word and the plan for the Messiah. The Psalms bring hope and comfort leading to a peace and an overflowing joy. This book, like no other in the Bible, is the outpouring of praise to God from His people.

We can learn so much about praise from the psalmists. As we go through this study, spend time reading the Psalms given for each lesson. You will be blessed by taking the extra time to read the complete Psalm even if it's not required to answer the questions. Try reading aloud. **The Psalms were meant to be given a voice**, especially in song. Throughout the Psalms you will also discover a purposeful repetition of phrases, thoughts and themes that reinforce the intent of the praise or lament. Let us join together in this study to learn more about God, the creator of the universe.

Like all other Illuminations studies, this workbook is written from the New International Version. You should be able to answer all the questions by examining the text, examining your life and occasionally using your dictionary. Each lesson is divided into five sections. If at all possible, spread your study time out over several days and let the psalmists' words influence your daily walk. Please be sure to pray before you begin each lesson.

Our prayer is that you are able to catch a glimpse of God's character and learn to praise Him more each day over the next twelve weeks.

Debbie McAfee and Linda Scott

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God Is Power

Lesson #1 Psalms 29, 104, 46, 78 & 139

*Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit.
Psalm 147:5*

Section I. Read Psalm 29

1. a. List the attributes the “mighty ones” ascribe to God in verses 1 and 2.
 - b. What is the dictionary definition of “ascribe”?
 - c. Thought question: If the mighty ones are angels (Psalm 103:20), why would it be easy for them to ascribe strength to God?
2. Have you ever felt in awe of God’s strength/power as David did when watching a storm? Explain how the metaphor of a storm describes God’s power to you.
3. a. How is the voice of the Lord described in the following verses from Psalm 29?

Vs. 3 _____	Vs. 7 _____
Vs. 4a _____	Vs. 8 _____
Vs. 4b _____	Vs. 9 _____
Vs. 5 _____	
- b. What do these verses tell **you** about God’s “voice”?
4. a. Through His power, God provides what two things for His people?
 - b. How does God give you strength? (Use scripture.)
 - c. How does God give you peace? (Use scripture.)

Section II. Read Psalm 104

5. a. God’s power over creation is described in many ways in 104:5-19. Select a few of your favorites.
 - b. What does it mean to you to know you have a creator who can make something from nothing?

6. a. From 104:20-30, list the ways God continues to care for His creation.
- b. What should your response be to God's continued care? (Matt. 6:25-34)
- c. Thought question: Why is it so hard for us not to worry?

Section III. Read Psalm 46

7. a. According to 46:1-3, why are we not to fear?
- b. How do we learn not to have fear in our lives? (Ps. 34:4; Isa. 41:10; I Jn. 4:16-18)
8. Compare and contrast nations that fear God and those that do not.
(Psalms 33:12-20, 68:12, 68:19-21)

<u>Nations That Fear God</u>	<u>Nations That Do Not Fear God</u>
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9. a. True or False: A very powerful nation can thwart God's plans. Why or why not?
(Psalm 22:28; Isa. 14:27; Isa. 40:23-24)

- b. Give your favorite example of an army fleeing from God and His people. (e.g. Gideon and the Midianites in Judges 7)

10. a. In Psalm 68:19-20, what does God do for His people?

- b. For which of these gifts are you the most thankful today? Explain.

Section IV. Read Psalm 78:1-31

11. a. What is the dictionary definition of "omnipotent"?

- b. List several ways God showed His power/omnipotence in 78:12-16.

12. a. Multiple choice: After all these acts of power, what was the people's response in verses 17-20 and 22?
(a) Belief (b) Sin (c) Rebellion (d) Trust (e) Blasphemy
- b. After Israel's response, what was God's response in verses 21-31?
- c. How has God shown you His power, and what has **your** response been?

Section V. Read Psalm 139

13. a. What is the dictionary definition of "omniscient"?
- b. List examples of God's all-knowing nature in 139:1-4.
14. a. What is the dictionary definition of "omnipresent"?
- b. List examples of how God is everywhere in 139:7-12.
15. What difference does it make in **your** daily life knowing that God is omniscient and omnipresent?
16. a. In 139:23-24, what does David seek that only God can do?
- b. What power does God have over our hearts today? (Acts 1:24; Heb. 4:12)
- c. To whom should this bring assurance, and to whom fear?
17. Read Psalm 102:25-28. Take a few moments to sit quietly and meditate upon what you have read about God's power. Write out your own psalm of praise/prayer to God extolling His power.
