

Psalm 122 (msg)

¹⁻² When they said, “Let’s go to the house of God,”
my heart leaped for joy.
And now we’re here, O Jerusalem,
inside Jerusalem’s walls!
³⁻⁵ Jerusalem, well-built city,
built as a place for worship!
The city to which the tribes ascend,
all God’s tribes go up to worship,
To give thanks to the name of God—
this is what it means to be Israel.
Thrones for righteous judgment
are set there, famous David-thrones.
⁶⁻⁹ Pray for Jerusalem’s peace!
Prosperity to all you Jerusalem-lovers!
Friendly insiders, get along!
Hostile outsiders, keep your distance!
For the sake of my family and friends,
I say it again: live in peace!
For the sake of the house of our God, God,
I’ll do my very best for you.

This Week’s Verses

Psalm 122
Matthew 15:8-9
John 4:23-24
Hebrews 13:15-16

Worship
Psalm 122

Week 3

Songs of Ascent

Daily Reading

Worship Psalm 122

Community Discussion

From the very beginning of the Scriptures, we see that God built us to be worshippers, it goes deeper than our DNA; worship is the fabric of our existence. Creation was made to glorify God because when God is most glorified, we live in the most joy. Once we begin to understand that our lives do not make sense apart from worship, we will take more seriously what we worship. There is a quote that has been attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson, "A person will worship something, have no doubt about that. We may think our tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of our hearts, but it will come out. That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives, and our character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping, we are becoming." Chaim Stern wrote, "The gods we worship write their names on our faces."

Read the Psalm each day as you answer the daily questions.

Day 1 Reflect: When was the last time your "heart leaped for joy" as you worshiped God?

Pray: Pray that God would grow a deep joy within you that translates to a life of worship.

Day 2 Reflect: The psalmist says gratitude is the mark of God's people... what are you grateful for? What marks your life as a worshipper?

Pray: Thank God for the gifts He has given you out of His great love. Ask God how you can show your gratitude toward Him and other people.

Day 3 Reflect: In what ways does your city/country/world need peace? What is your role in that?

Pray: Pray that God would use you as peacemaker wherever you are and that He would continue to capture and transform hearts for good.

Day 4 Reflect: "I'll do my very best for you." Understanding our salvation is by grace, honestly ask where in your life can you "do better" as an expression of worship? What needs to change?

Pray: Ask God for the strength and wisdom to make changes that will better reflect a life in submission to Him.

Day 5 Reflect: In what ways do you become like that which you worship?

Pray: Pray that God would help you to turn from false gods and fix your eyes on Him, that you would be made more like Him.

As you gather as a community, discuss what you learned through the daily readings.

What did/have you missed about worshipping corporately (as a large group) in the midst of Covid?

How has your understanding/definition of worship changed or evolved over time?

What are some of your favorite characteristics of God?

What would it mean to redefine the more mundane aspects of your life as worship?

Based on your behavior/habits, what are you worshipping? If not God, then what?

What acts of love can we live out together in worship?

Who would people say God is based upon how you live?

How do you show something has worth?

How does the inner essence of worship result in our external expression?

If you assess your life, what do you worship by acts of your mouth? What do you worship by the acts of your body?

How different would your relationships be if you were more readily worshipping via acts of mouth and body in all areas of life?

How can we repent of the things that are not of God?

Songs of Ascent