

Psalm 128 (*msg*)

¹⁻⁴ “They’ve kicked me around ever since I was young”
—this is how Israel tells it—
“They’ve kicked me around ever since I was young,
but they never could keep me down.
Their plowmen plowed long furrows
up and down my back;
But God wouldn’t put up with it,
he sticks with us.
Then God ripped the harnesses
of the evil plowmen to shreds.”
⁵⁻⁸ Oh, let all those who hate Zion
grovel in humiliation;
Let them be like grass in shallow ground
that withers before the harvest,
Before the farmhands can gather it in,
the harvesters get in the crop,
Before the neighbors have a chance to call out,
“Congratulations on your wonderful crop!
We bless you in God’s name!”

This Week's *Verses*

Psalm 129

Matthew 7:24-25

Matthew 16:26

Ephesians 6:13

Revelation 3:10-11

Hebrews 12:2

Matthew 16:18

Revelation 3:8

Psalm 27:1

Perseverance
Psalm 129

Week 10

Songs of Ascent

Daily Reading

Psalm 129

Anything truly meaningful in life will come to a place that requires perseverance, this includes discipleship. We don't persevere because it makes us worthy of a relationship with God, we persevere because of the Gospel. We are saved by grace, but perseverance will flow out of that grace. In Psalm 129 the pilgrims sing these words on the way up to Jerusalem, they took the journey. We live after Jesus came, instead of going up we realize that God came down to rescue us. Our worth before God is not based on how well we persevere, it is based upon how He persevered for us. This teaches that a Christian suffers with hope and perseveres with hope! True perseverance only comes when we understand the Gospel.

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

Day 1 Reflect: When have you felt “kicked around?” What happened and what was your response?

Pray: Talk honestly with God about the pain that you are experiencing or have experienced, asking Him to meet you in that place and bring healing and encouragement.

Day 2 Reflect: Why does God care so much about justice?

Pray: Praise God for His active work in your life and in the world, as He promises to make all things new.

Day 3 Reflect: What does it mean that God sees and knows our pain?

Pray: Thank God for His presence and intimate knowledge of our lives, and how He willingly suffered on our behalf.

Day 4 Reflect: What has your response been toward those that have caused you pain?

Pray: Pray for a softness of heart that longs to see others surrender to Jesus and be restored. Ask God to help you work through any areas of unforgiveness.

Day 5 Reflect: How can your experiences of suffering draw you into closer relationship with Jesus?

Pray: Ask God to speak to your heart about what He is doing through pain and suffering. Ask Him to help you trust Him as you walk through uncertainty.

Community Discussion

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

How have you been “kicked around” in your life?

How have you kicked others around?

Define the word “perseverance.”

How does your understanding of perseverance relate to how you view God and His grace?

What have your experiences of suffering revealed about your own character? About God?

How has suffering exposed the things in which you put your trust (idols)?

How does knowing Jesus transform our experience of suffering?

As a community, how can we not only suffer, but persevere better together?

How can we reflect who Jesus is to a world that is rife with pain?

How can we help the world understand that much of its pain comes from a wrong focus of our lives (on ourselves verses on Christ)?

How is the strength of God displayed in our own weakness?

How can we encourage one another in perseverance?

Songs of Ascent