

## Psalm 134 (ESV)

- <sup>1</sup> Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!  
<sup>2</sup> Lift up your hands to the holy place  
and bless the Lord!  
<sup>3</sup> May the Lord bless you from Zion,  
he who made heaven and earth!

## This Week's *Verses*

Psalm 134  
Romans 5:3-8  
Proverbs 24:10  
Ephesians 5:8  
1 Corinthians 2:6-9  
Galatians 4:4-7

Hope  
*Psalm 134*

Week 15

*Songs of Ascent*

## Daily Reading

## Psalm 134

The reason we end all of these Songs of Ascent with the idea of hope is that hope is what those taking this journey were ultimately looking for. They traveled to Jerusalem for the feasts, the holidays, to remember who God is and what He had done...but they also remember what God promised He would do. When we look back at all that was written and said in the Hebrew Scriptures, we see God promising to come and rescue His people through no merit of their own. That should bring us hope because we have all failed miserably, all too often. Peterson writes, "God gets down on his knees among us, gets on our level and shares himself with us. He does not reside afar off and send us diplomatic messages; he kneels among us. That posture is characteristic of God." Because God came to save us, we get to go out and get down on the level of those around us in a way that makes God's love tangible.

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

**Day 1 Reflect:** The use of "bless" in the Psalm refers to what God does to us and among us. Take some time to reflect on what God has already done in your life and what He is doing now.

**Pray:** Thank God for His nearness and active work in your story, that He cares for and is with you.

**Day 2 Reflect:** How can you serve as God's priest in the world?

**Pray:** Ask God how you can better represent who He is to those around you.

**Day 3 Reflect:** How can you consciously praise and worship who God is today?

**Pray:** Take time to revel in who God is and praise Him for His endless, amazing attributes.

**Day 4 Reflect:** How does "the maker of heaven and earth" care for you personally? In what ways does He long for you to join Him in His redemptive work?

**Pray:** Thank God for His commitment to His children and the ways He uses broken people to share in His good work in the world.

**Day 5 Reflect:** What are the highlights of what God revealed to you throughout this Songs of Ascent journey?

## Community Discussion

**Pray:** Thank God for His continued work and growth in your life, asking Him to take you deeper as you move forward. Ask Him how His truth can transform your daily life and relationships.

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

What makes you hopeful? What do you look to for hope?

How has hope in things other than God (yourself, a loved one, something material, recreation, etc.) failed you?

In what places/experiences has God met you "at the end of your rope"?

How does hope challenge the idea of self-sufficiency?

Are there times you have felt afraid or foolish for being hopeful? What was that like?

Does your desire for and focus on God grow or decrease in the midst of hardship? What does that reveal about your expectations of God?

Why is true and lasting hope grounded in the person of Jesus?

As followers of Jesus, how can we suffer "well" and demonstrate hope in who He is?

How has the journey of Ascent in the last 15 weeks changed you?

*Songs of Ascent*