



Sermon Questions

Date: *May 28, 2023* | Scripture: *Psalms 1*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. How often do you read psalms? When do you find yourself reading or singing psalms?
3. Have you ever examined your life? What have you found? If you were to summarize your examination in a sentence, what would it be?
4. Psalm 1 presents us with a choice between two paths and two very different ends. How does the psalm portray these two paths and their two ends?
5. What makes the path of the scoffer tempting? What makes the righteous path difficult?
6. How would you define flourishing? How do you think you arrive at that flourishing?
7. How does the Bible define flourishing? How does the Bible say you arrive there?

Inward Grace in Action (Continued on back)

When reading from the psalms, it is important to not approach them like Romans or Matthew or Genesis. They are not meant to be read as history or theological reasoning, though they may be helpful when studying history and theology. Rather, psalms are music first and foremost.

They are meant to be sung. The psalms give us insight into the cultural and emotional vocabulary of the people of God. They express the full range of human emotion through the perspective of Holy-Spirit-inspired individuals and have been sung as prayers from the times of Moses and David until today. This is especially true for Jesus. Jesus' emotional life is rooted in the language and moods of the Psalms. He often quoted them in his teaching and prayer. Upon his resurrection and ascension, the apostles saw Jesus as a fulfillment of the psalms' expectation. Thus, psalms were both sung by Jesus and sung about him.

These two questions below will be used throughout our series, much like the first set of questions which recur every week. Take time to use your imagination together.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 30:11-20
- Psalm 33
- Proverbs 4:10-27
- Matt 21:1-16
- Acts 2:22-41
- Colossians 3:12-17

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for God to bless the work of Chip & Meredith Jones with Serge in Chili as they come alongside a dying church, that they'd be able to help them create a God-honoring atmosphere.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

- How was this psalm sung by Jesus? (Think about Jesus' life as recorded in the gospels. When might he have sung this psalm? How did its content relate to his teaching, or his life?)
- How can this psalm be sung about Jesus? (How does Jesus fulfill the expectation of this psalm? How does he answer the deep questions and longings in this psalm?)

ACTION: There are more than 90 days between the first week in our series and Labor Day when we end our series. If you were to read 1-2 psalms every day between now and then, you'll have read the whole book of Psalms. Most psalms only take a few minutes to read slowly.

While it is not necessary to keep up with our sermon series, it might be beneficial to commit reading the psalms along with us this summer! Discuss a reading plan with your community group, spouse, roommates, and/or children. You can also discuss how to delight and meditate on the word of God together, as Psalm 1:2 commends.