



Sermon Questions

Date: *July 30, 2023* | Scripture: *Psalm 29*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. When do you find yourself praying the most? When things are going well? When things are hard? Are you consistent or erratic?

This psalm portrays God's voice as thunder and describes his presence as a powerful thunderstorm. To ancient Israel, thunderstorms brought rainfall, which was essential to life. Therefore, this psalm is praising God for his provision and celebrating him in good times. David is tracing the line back to God as the giver of life and prosperity.

3. How have you seen God provide for your needs? A new job? A place to live? Community? A spouse? Children? Share a story of one way God has provided for you.
4. What does it look like for you to give God praise for the good things he's given you?

Songs which were almost identical to this one were sung by pagan Canaanites to their rain god Baal. Israelites would have been tempted to ask their Canaanite neighbors "How do you get your gardens to grow?" They would have responded, "Oh, that's easy! You pray to Baal, you sacrifice some animals. If it's really bad, you cut yourself and offer a child. And then it rains!" David intentionally writes this song in the same style as Baal praises to recognize that the God of Israel is the true God who controls the rain and brings life. Just like the Israelites, we're also tempted to ask our neighbors "How can I make my garden grow?"

5. What is your "garden"? What are the things in life you're hoping to secure or achieve? A promotion? A raise? New friends? A significant other? Obedient children?
6. What would your non-Christian neighbors tell you on how to secure or achieve those things? In what ways might that guidance pull you away from trusting in God? Try to be specific.
7. How can we know and trust that the God of the Bible is the true source of those good things? Why do we believe that he is the one and only God?

ACTION: Write your own prayer of thanks to God this week for one way he's provided for your needs. Think through the ways he's worked in ordinary things and connect the dots back to him as the giver of life.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Exodus 14:10-31
- Psalm 96
- Isaiah 54:1-17
- Mark 4:35-41
- Hebrews 1:1-2:1
- Revelation 5:1-14

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

Pray for the students of Cornerstone Schools in Washington, DC to come to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reach out if you need assistance:

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