

Week 37– Questions to Consider

Psalms 108 ~ Psalm 109 ~ Psalm 110 ~ Proverbs 22:17-29

Small Group Warm Up Question:

What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about prayer?

1. Why do you think the Psalmist references God as “among the peoples” in Psalm 108:3? In your toughest seasons of life, why is it so important to know that God is with you?
 2. In the midst of difficult, Psalm 108 focuses our gaze on God “above the heavens.” How does looking up, both spiritually and physically, help us? What have been some of your favorite things God has shown or taught you by looking up into the “clouds” or “heavens”?
 3. After speaking of God’s presence and transcendence, Psalm continues with a focus on reminds God’s ownership and conquering power in Psalm 108:7-9,13. How do these truths build confidence in you?
 4. Imprecatory Psalms (examples = 5, 10, 17, 35, 58, 59, 69, 70, 79, 83, 109, 129, 137, and 140) call out to God for a curse on one’s enemies. What do you think about these kinds of Psalms? Have they been easy or difficult for you to relate with them? Should you pray similarly against your own enemies? Or should we pray differently than Psalm 109?
 5. What are some of the ways David is describing his enemies’ attacks and behaviors (Psalm 109:1-5, 16-18)? How have you similarly experienced attacks from human enemies? Why do people act these ways?
 6. What are some of the ways that David prays against his enemies? (Psalm 109:6-15) Why does David pray this way? Is he just wanting vengeance or does he have other motives? If we ever pray similarly against our enemies, what are ways we should evaluate our own heart motives?
 7. What is your favorite verse from the finale of Psalm 109 (verses 26-31)? Why?
 8. Who does Psalm 110 make you think about? Why? Who sits at the right hand of God? (v.1) Is King of Zion (v.2)? Who is a priest “after the order of Melchizedek” (v.4)? What does that mean and signify? (<https://www.gotquestions.org/order-of-Melchizedek.html>)
 9. Who is someone you could listen endlessly to? Why? Who does Prov.22:17 encourage us particularly to listen to? Why? How has God been using the Proverbs in your life this year as a voice of wisdom
- More questions @ www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide

How to Pray Against & For Your Enemies: Imprecatory Psalms

Psalm 109 (ESV)

Imprecatory Psalms

5, 10, 17, 35, 58, 59, 69, 70, 79, 83, 109, 129, 137, and 140.

www.gotquestions.org/imprecatory-psalms.html

www.trustworthyword.com/enemies

Imprecation = a spoken curse

Can we both love and hate our enemies?

“a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.”

Ecclesiastes 3:8

Psalm 26:5 “I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.”

Psalm 31:6 “I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the LORD.”

Psalm 139:21–22 “Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.”

Luke 6:27–31 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, [28] bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. [29] To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. [30] Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. [31] And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”

4 Ways to Pray AGAINST Your Enemies

Call for Glory to God - Victory Over Evil

- Psalm 109:21 “O GOD my Lord, deal on my behalf for your name’s sake; because your steadfast love is good, deliver me!”
- 2 Timothy 2:3 “Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ”

Call for Justice - P_____ of Evil

- Psalm 109:2–5 “For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues. They encircle me with words of hate, and attack me without cause. In return for my love they accuse me, but I give myself to prayer. So they reward me evil for good, and hatred for my love.”
- Romans 12:18–21 “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Call for Deliverance - Protection from Evil

- Psalm 109:26 “Help me, O LORD my God! Save me according to your steadfast love!”
- Matthew 6:13 “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”

Call for Peace - R_____ of Evil

- Psalm 109:28 “Let them curse, but you will bless! They arise and are put to shame, but your servant will be glad!”
- Matthew 5:10-11 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ‘Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.’”

4 Ways to Pray FOR Your Enemies

Call for Glory to God - Conversion Change

- Psalm 109:27 “Let them know that this is your hand; you, O LORD, have done it!”
- 1 Timothy 1:13–16 “formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”

Call for Salvation - B_____ for Lostness

- Romans 9:2 “I have great sorrow & unceasing anguish in my heart.”
- Romans 10:1 “Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.”

Call Against Satan - See Your Ultimate Enemy

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- Ephesians 6:12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood”

Call for Love - Praying C_____

- Matthew 7:12 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”
- Matthew 5:44 “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”

This Next Week’s Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:

- Week 38: Psalm 111-113 ~Proverbs 23:1-18
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2023-bible-reading-plan

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