

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Psalms 1 & 2

Read Psalm 1

- How does changing the word “blessed” to “happy” or “joy-filled” change the meaning of verses 1-2?
- What is the difference in meaning (in our culture and language) between blessed and happy? Why do we sometimes look down at the word happy as shallow? Is happiness something we should be pursuing?
- How does Psalm 1:1-2 tell us to pursue happiness?
- What is the progression in Psalm 1:1 and what can we learn from it?
- What is the importance of the word “delight” in Psalm 2?
- How are the righteous like a tree? How are the wicked like chaff?
 - **Commentary on Chaff** - The threshing floor was usually a hard, flat surface on a hill, well exposed to the wind. The wheat was lifted by a large winnowing fork and thrown into the air, so that the precious grain would drop down and be gathered, while the light husks of the chaff would be blown away by the wind.
- Compare verse 5 with verse 1 and explain how this Psalm is a warning.

Read Psalm 2

- How is Psalm 2 connected to Psalm 1?
- Who is the LORD’s anointed in Psalm 2:2?

- **Leaders Cheat:** It's both King David and Jesus. David was writing about his life knowing that his life pointed to a future descendant.
 - Read and discuss the following passages in relation to Psalm 2.
 - 2 Sam. 7:12-14
 - Acts 4:24-28
 - Read and discuss the following quote from **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** – According to the witness of the Bible, David is, as the anointed king of the chosen people of God, a prototype of Jesus Christ. What happens to him happens to him for the sake of the one who is in him and who is said to proceed from him, namely Jesus Christ. And he is not unaware of this... David was a witness of Christ in his office, in his life, and in his words... The same words which David spoke, therefore, the future Messiah spoke through him. The prayers that David prayed were also prayed by Christ ... Or better, Christ himself prayed them through his forerunner, David.
- Why are the nations raging? (Verse 3)
- What is God's response to the nations? Why should we look at verse 4 as poetic language?
 - Read and discuss:
 - 2 Peter 3:9
 - Galatians 6:7
- How do verses 7-9 relate to the Great Commission?
 - Read Matthew 28:18-20
 - Read Acts 1:8