

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We have the tendency to speak in “Christianese” — words that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurt, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

(1 Corinthians 1:25)

Have you ever read a chapter in the Bible but then could not remember what you had read? Have you ever fallen asleep while reading? An hour after you read, do you retain what you have read? These problems destroy enjoyment in Bible reading and therefore we must use a method of Bible reading that will solve this problem. To read properly we must be keen observers. We must see words and phrases that stand out while at the same time collecting the whole thought. Remember, the important thing is not how many times you have gone through the Bible, but how many times the Bible has gone through you!

### **Observe // what do I see?**

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, "What do I see?" This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for your study. The text is given to you so that you will underline, circle, box, and highlight important words as you read. As you read look for comparisons, contrasts, purposes, results, causes, explanations, conclusions, and conditions. Ask yourself who, what, where, when, why, and how as you read. Keep asking these questions as you read to prevent a lazy brain while reading. Look for themes and main ideas from the passage.

### **Interpret // what does it mean?**

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Reread through the passage after your observation notations have been made looking to answer what the passage means. Record your explanations of the text in the workbook.

### **Apply // how does this affect me?**

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. Write down lessons that you have learned for you own life especially things that you see you need to change. Only you know your heart and what is happening in your life to be able to apply God's word directly to you. Bible study is fruitless if we do not take the information we have learned and directly change our lives. Write down how the passage affects you. The transformation section in the workbook will help you in this effort.

### **Share // how can I share my findings with us?**

Now we want to share our findings with others. We want to share our observations, interpretations, and applications with others in the Bible class. This is your opportunity to hear what others have found in their studies and for you to share what you found. By doing this we are able to build one another up and grow up in the unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:12-13). If we do not share what we have found then we will be unable to grow together as the family of Christ.

At the end of each psalm is a devotional quotation from Charles Spurgeon as a stimulus for further thinking about the impact and application of God's word in your life.

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A MASKIL OF THE SONS OF KORAH.

- 1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.
- 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"
- 4 These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival.
- 5 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation
- 6 and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of

Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

- 7 Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.
- 8 By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.
- 9 I say to God, my rock: "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"
- 10 As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"
- 11 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What does the psalmist express in the first two verses? How deep is the psalmist's desire?
  
- 2 What is happening to the psalmist (42:3-4)?
  
- 3 What does the psalmist tell himself (42:5-6)? What do we learn from this?
  
- 4 How does the psalmist describe his experience (42:7)? Have you felt this way in your life?

5 What is the psalmist's hope (42:8)? What is the psalmist's cry (42:9-10)? What are other's saying about him? What do we learn?

6 What does the psalmist tell himself (42:11)? What will he do? What do we learn?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "I am not ashamed to own him amid your sneers and taunts, for he will rescue me out of your hands. Thus faith closes the struggle, a victor in fact by anticipation, and in heart by firm reliance."*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!</p> <p>2 For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?</p> <p>3 Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!</p> | <p>4 Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.</p> <p>5 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. (ESV)</p> |
|--|--|

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the psalmist's cry (43:1-2)? What is his concern?
  
- 2 What is the psalmist's request (43:3)?
  
- 3 What will be the psalmist's response (43:4)?
  
- 4 What does the psalmist tell himself (43:5)? What do we learn?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

✍️ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍️ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍️ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Come, my heart, look out of the window, borrow the telescopic glass, forecast a little, and sweeten thy chamber with sprigs of the sweet herb of hope."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A MASKIL OF THE SONS OF KORAH.

- 1 O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:
- 2 you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free;
- 3 for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them.
- 4 You are my King, O God; ordain salvation for Jacob!
- 5 Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down those who rise up against us.
- 6 For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me.
- 7 But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us.
- 8 In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever. *Selah*
- 9 But you have rejected us and disgraced us and have not gone out with our armies.
- 10 You have made us turn back from the foe, and those who hate us have gotten spoil.
- 11 You have made us like sheep for slaughter and have scattered us among the nations.
- 12 You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no high price for them.
- 13 You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the

derision and scorn of those around us.

- 14 You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples.
- 15 All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face
- 16 at the sound of the taunter and reviler, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.
- 17 All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant.
- 18 Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way;
- 19 yet you have broken us in the place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death.
- 20 If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god,
- 21 would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart.
- 22 Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.
- 23 Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!
- 24 Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?
- 25 For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground.
- 26 Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love! (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

1 What have they heard (44:1-3)?

2 What have they experienced (44:4-8)?

- 3 But what has happened to the people (44:9-16)? What has God done to them? What are people doing to them?
  
- 4 In light of what is happening to the people, what are the people examining of themselves (44:17-22)? What are they claiming?
  
- 5 Look at verse 22. Where is this quoted in the New Testament? What is the New Testament message?
  
- 6 What is the cry of the people (44:23-26)? What are they hoping for?
  
- 7 How can this psalm be applied to us today?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

- ✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?
  
- ✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?
  
- ✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Mercy is always a safe plea, and never will any man find a better."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO LILIES. A MASKIL OF THE SONS OF KORAH; A LOVE SONG.

- 1 My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.
- 2 You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.
- 3 Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty!
- 4 In your majesty ride out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!
- 5 Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you.
- 6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
- 7 you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
- 8 your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
- 9 daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
- 10 Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house,
- 11 and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him.
- 12 The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people.
- 13 All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold.
- 14 In many-colored robes she is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her.
- 15 With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king.
- 16 In place of your fathers shall be your sons; you will make them princes in all the earth.
- 17 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Who is being addressed in verses 1-5? Write down all that is being praised about him.
  
- 2 What do they praise the Lord for (45:6)?
  
- 3 Who is being addressed and praised in verses 7-9? Write down all that is being praised about him.



- 4 Who is being instructed in verses 10-15? Explain what is happening.
  
- 5 What is praised in verses 16-17? What is the hope?
  
- 6 Looking back on the psalm, what has been pictured? What is the message to us? What is the message about the anointed?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Age to age reveals more of his love, let every year swell the volume of the music of earth and heaven, and let thunders of song roll up in full diapason to the throne of him that liveth, and was dead, and is alive for evermore, and hath the keys of hell and of death."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. OF THE SONS OF KORAH. ACCORDING TO ALAMOTH. A SONG.

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

- 6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*
- 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.
- 10 “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”
- 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah* (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Explain the declaration about God in verse 1.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2 What is our response because of the character of God (46:2-3)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3 What is the picture in verses 4-7? What is the message?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4 What does the psalmist want all to see (46:8-9)? Why?

5 Explain verse 10. Why “be still”?

6 What is the message of verses 10-11?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

☞ What does this psalm teach you about God?

☞ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

☞ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: “Either by terror or love God will subdue all hearts to himself. The whole round earth shall yet reflect the light of his majesty.”*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH.

- 1 Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- 2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
- 4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound

of a trumpet.

- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!
- 8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted! (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the call to the world (47:1-4)? What is the reason? Explain.
- 2 What has God done (47:5)? What is to be the response (47:6-7)?
- 3 Explain verses 8-9. What is the message?

### TRANSFORMATION:

✍️ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍️ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍️ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "For the shields of the earth belong unto God. The insignia of pomp, the emblems of rank, the weapons of war, all must pay loyal homage to the King of all."*

A SONG. A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH.

1 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city  
of our God! His holy mountain,  
2 beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount  
Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.  
3 Within her citadels God has made himself known as  
a fortress.  
4 For behold, the kings assembled; they came on together.  
5 As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were  
in panic; they took to flight.  
6 Trembling took hold of them there, anguish as of a  
woman in labor.  
7 By the east wind you shattered the ships of Tarshish.  
8 As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the

LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God will  
establish forever. *Selah*

9 We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the  
midst of your temple.  
10 As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the  
ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with  
righteousness.  
11 Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah  
rejoice because of your judgments!  
12 Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,  
13 consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,  
that you may tell the next generation  
14 that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will  
guide us forever. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Describe Zion (48:1-3)?
- 2 What is the effect of Zion on the kings (48:4-7)? What is the people's belief about Zion (4:8)?
- 3 What do the people consider (48:9-10)? Why would they do this?
- 4 What is the message about Zion (48:11-14)?

### TRANSFORMATION:

✍️ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍️ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍️ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "There is no other God, we wish for no other, we would have no other even if there were."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH.

- 1 Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
- 2 both low and high, rich and poor together!
- 3 My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
- 4 I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.
- 5 Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,
- 6 those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?
- 7 Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life,
- 8 for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice,
- 9 that he should live on forever and never see the pit.
- 10 For he sees that even the wise die; the fool and the stupid alike must perish and leave their wealth to others.
- 11 Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they called lands

by their own names.

- 12 Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish.
- 13 This is the path of those who have foolish confidence; yet after them people approve of their boasts. *Selah*
- 14 Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.
- 15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. *Selah*
- 16 Be not afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases.
- 17 For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him.
- 18 For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed —and though you get praise when you do well for yourself—
- 19 his soul will go to the generation of his fathers, who will never again see light.
- 20 Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the initial call (49:1-4)? Explain the call.
- 2 What is the psalmist's message in verses 5-12?
- 3 Looking at verses 5-12, what teaching points does the psalmist make about wealth and riches?
- 4 What is the psalmist's message in verses 13-15? What is the outcome?

5 What is the teaching in verses 16-20?

6 What should people understand from this psalm?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Let it not give thee any concern to see the godless prosper. Raise no questions as to divine justice; suffer no foreboding to cloud thy mind. Temporal prosperity is too small a matter to be worth fretting about; let the dogs have their bones, and the swine their draff."*

A PSALM OF ASAPH.

- 1 The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- 3 Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.
- 4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
- 5 “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! *Selah*
- 7 “Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.
- 8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.
- 9 I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.
- 10 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
- 11 I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.
- 12 “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.

- 13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?
- 14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,
- 15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”
- 16 But to the wicked God says: “What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips?
- 17 For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you.
- 18 If you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you keep company with adulterers.
- 19 “You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit.
- 20 You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother’s son.
- 21 These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.
- 22 “Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!
- 23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!” (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is being pictured in the first six verses? What is God doing?
  
- 2 What does God say in verses 7-11? What do we learn?
  
- 3 What does God say in verses 12-15? What do we learn?



4 What does God say to the wicked (50:16-18)? What do we learn?

5 What else does God say to the wicked (50:19-21)? What do we learn?

6 What is the Lord's final message (50:22-23)? What do we learn?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Praise is the best sacrifice; true, hearty, gracious thanksgiving from a renewed mind. Not the lowing of bullocks bound to the altar, but the songs of redeemed men are the music which the ear of Jehovah delights in."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN NATHAN THE PROPHET WENT TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD GONE IN TO BATHSHEBA.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
- 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the psalmist's initial request (51:1-2)? What is the basis of his request?
  
- 2 What does the psalmist understand about his sins (51:3-5)? How does he look at himself and how does he look at God?
  
- 3 What does the psalmist know (51:6)?

4 What does the psalmist request (51:7-12)? What does he desire from the Lord?

5 What will the psalmist do if the Lord responds (51:13-17)?

6 What does the Lord desire (51:16-17)? What does this mean?

7 How does the psalmist end the psalm (51:18-19)? What does he desire?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Though we bring no more sacrifices for sin, yet as priests unto God our solemn praises and votive gifts are thank offerings acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A MASKIL OF DAVID, WHEN DOEG, THE EDOMITE, CAME AND TOLD SAUL, "DAVID HAS COME TO THE HOUSE OF AHIMELECH."

- 1 Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day.
- 2 Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.
- 3 You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. *Selah*
- 4 You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.
- 5 But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah*

- 6 The righteous shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, saying,
- 7 "See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!"
- 8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.
- 9 I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Explain the conditions under which this psalm was written according to the heading. See 1 Samuel 21-22. What was David experiencing? Who is Doeg? What happened?
- 2 Describe the ways of the wicked in the first four verses.
- 3 Describe what are "words that devour" (52:4).
- 4 Where does the New Testament warn us about how we use our tongue?
- 5 What will God do (52:5)?

6 What will the righteous do (52:6-9)? What will the righteous say?

7 Explain the picture of the righteous in verse 8.

**TRANSFORMATION:**

✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Let the mighty ones boast, we will wait on the Lord; and if their haste brings them present honour, our patience will have its turn by and by, and bring us the honour which excelleth."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO MAHALATH. A MASKIL OF DAVID.

- 1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.
- 2 God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.
- 3 They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

- 4 Have those who work evil no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon God?
- 5 There they are, in great terror, where there is no terror! For God scatters the bones of him who encamps against you; you put them to shame, for God has rejected them.
- 6 Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When God restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What does the fool say (53:1)? Consider that there was not a concept of atheism in the ancient world. With this in mind, what does the fool mean by what he says?
  
- 2 What does the belief of the fool lead to (53:1)?
  
- 3 What does God look down to see (53:2)?
  
- 4 What does the Lord conclude (53:4)?
  
- 5 What is the decree about those who do evil (53:4-5)?

6 What is the psalmist's hope (53:6)

7 Look at Romans 3:9-18. How does the apostle Paul apply this scripture?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Bad principles soon lead to bad lives. One does not find virtue promoted by the example of your Voltaires and Tom Paines. Those who talk so abominably as to deny their Maker will act abominably when it serves their turn."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS. A MASKIL OF DAVID, WHEN THE ZIPHITES WENT AND TOLD SAUL, "IS NOT DAVID HIDING AMONG US?"

- 1 O God, save me by your name, and vindicate me by your might.
- 2 O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.
- 3 For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life; they do not set God before themselves. *Selah*

4 Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

5 He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them.

6 With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

7 For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Explain the circumstance under which this psalm was written. Look at 1 Samuel 23:19-29 and write down what is happening to David.
  
- 2 What is David's prayer (54:1-3)?
  
- 3 What is the Lord to David (54:4-5)? What is David's hope?
  
- 4 What will David do (54:6-7)? What has happened?

### TRANSFORMATION:

✍️ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍️ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍️ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "In closing, let us trust that if we are as friendless as this man of God, we may resort in prayer as he did, exercise the like faith, and find ourselves ere long singing the same joyous hymn of praise."*



TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS. A  
MASKIL OF DAVID.

- 1 Give ear to my prayer, O God, and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!
- 2 Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan,
- 3 because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they drop trouble upon me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me.
- 4 My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
- 5 Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.
- 6 And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest;
- 7 yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; *Selah*
- 8 I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest."
- 9 Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues; for I see violence and strife in the city.
- 10 Day and night they go around it on its walls, and iniquity and trouble are within it;
- 11 ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud do not depart from its marketplace.
- 12 For it is not an enemy who taunts me— then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently

with me— then I could hide from him.

- 13 But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend.
- 14 We used to take sweet counsel together; within God's house we walked in the throng.
- 15 Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart.
- 16 But I call to God, and the LORD will save me.
- 17 Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice.
- 18 He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me.
- 19 God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, *Selah* because they do not change and do not fear God.
- 20 My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant.
- 21 His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.
- 22 Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.
- 23 But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What does David ask for (55:1-3)? What is he experiencing?
- 2 Explain what David desires (55:4-8). Have you felt this way in your difficulties?
- 3 What does David pray for (55:9-11)? Why should God respond to him?

- 4 Who is causing David problems (55:12-15)? Why is this surprising?
  
- 5 What will David do (55:16-19)? What is David's hope?
  
- 6 What has David's enemy done (55:20-21)?
  
- 7 What is the hope to the reader (55:22-23)? What are we called to do?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Doubt not that virtue lengthens life, and that vice tends to shorten it. But I will trust in thee. A very wise, practical conclusion. We can have no better ground of confidence. The Lord is all, and more than all that faith can need as the foundation of peaceful dependence. Lord, increase our faith evermore."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO THE DOVE ON FAR-OFF TEREBINTHS. A MIKTAM OF DAVID, WHEN THE PHILISTINES SEIZED HIM IN GATH.

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me;
- 2 my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly.
- 3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
- 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?
- 5 All day long they injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil.
- 6 They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps, as they have waited for my life.
- 7 For their crime will they escape? In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

- 8 You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?
- 9 Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me.
- 10 In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise,
- 11 in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?
- 12 I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you.
- 13 For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life. (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What has happened to David (56:1-2)?
- 2 What does David say he is doing (56:3-4)? What is his hope?
- 3 What else is happening to David (56:5-7)? What does he want God to do?
- 4 What is David's hope (56:8-13)? What will David do going forward?

### TRANSFORMATION:

☞ What does this psalm teach you about God?

☞ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

☞ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO DO NOT DESTROY. A MIKTAM OF DAVID, WHEN HE FLED FROM SAUL, IN THE CAVE.

- 1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.
- 2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
- 3 He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah*  
God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!
- 4 My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts— the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.
- 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
- 6 They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*
- 7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!
- 8 Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!
- 9 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.
- 10 For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! (ESV)

Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Why does David expect God's mercy (57:1-2)?
- 2 What is David's expectation (57:3)?
- 3 What is David experiencing (57:4)?
- 4 How does David want God's glory to be displayed (57:5-6)?
- 5 What is David's hope (57:7-11)? Why can David be steadfast? How does this give us hope?

**TRANSFORMATION:**

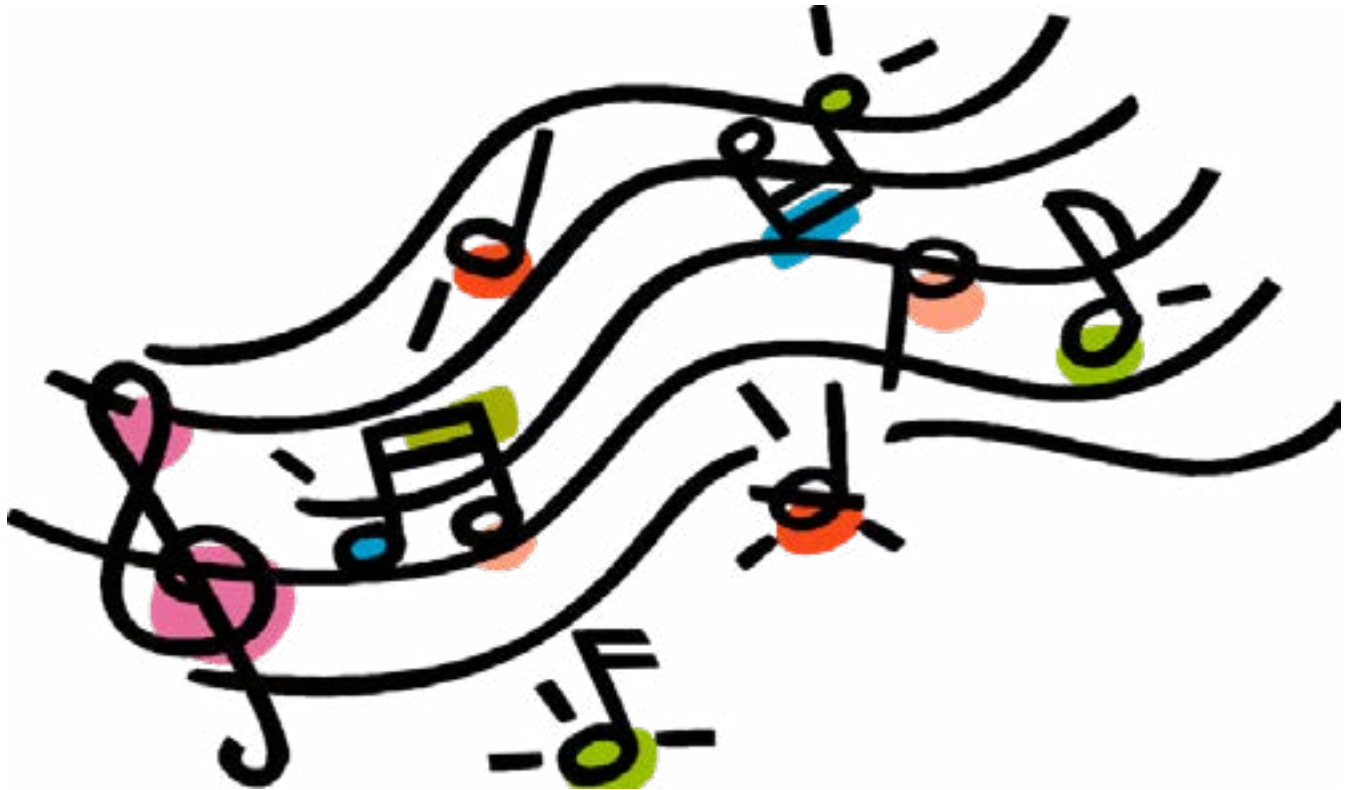
✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ How does this change how you will think about God and approach God?

✍ How will this psalm change how you live your life today?

*Spurgeon: "Evil will pass away, and the eternal wings will abide over us till then. Blessed be God, our calamities are matters of time, but our safety is a matter of eternity. When we are under the divine shadow, the passing over of trouble cannot harm us; the hawk flies across the sky, but this is no evil to the chicks when they are safely nestling beneath the hen."*

# PSALMS



INSTRUCTIONS FROM ISRAEL'S BOOK OF SONGS

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VOLUME 3 — PSALMS 42-57

SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville