

- 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.

A PSALM OF ASAPH.

- 1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
- 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.
- 3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- 4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.
- 5 They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.
- 7 Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.
- 8 They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.
- 9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.
- 10 Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.
- 11 And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
- 12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.
- 13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.
- 14 For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.
- 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

- 16 But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,
- 17 until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.
- 18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.
- 19 How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!
- 20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.
- 21 When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,
- 22 I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.
- 23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.
- 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.
- 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
- 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- 27 For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
- 28 But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works. (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What caused the psalmist to nearly stumble? What about you? Does this bother you also?
  
- 2 Describe the characteristics of the wicked.

- 3 What did the psalmist think (73:13-17)?
  
- 4 What did the psalmist do that changed his thinking?
  
- 5 What did the psalmist come to understand about the wicked (73:18-20)?
  
- 6 What did the psalmist learn about himself and about God (73:21-28)?
  
- 7 What will the psalmist do (73:28)?

**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: "He who is ready to believe the goodness of God shall always see fresh goodness to believe in, and he who is willing to declare the works of God shall never be silent for lack of wonders to declare."*

A MASKIL OF ASAPH.

- 1 O God, why do you cast us off forever? Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?
- 2 Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage! Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.
- 3 Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!
- 4 Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place; they set up their own signs for signs.
- 5 They were like those who swing axes in a forest of trees.
- 6 And all its carved wood they broke down with hatchets and hammers.
- 7 They set your sanctuary on fire; they profaned the dwelling place of your name, bringing it down to the ground.
- 8 They said to themselves, "We will utterly subdue them"; they burned all the meeting places of God in the land.
- 9 We do not see our signs; there is no longer any prophet, and there is none among us who knows how long.
- 10 How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever?
- 11 Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the fold of your garment and destroy them!
- 12 Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.
- 13 You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.
- 14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.
- 15 You split open springs and brooks; you dried up ever-flowing streams.
- 16 Yours is the day, yours also the night; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun.
- 17 You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter.
- 18 Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy scoffs, and a foolish people reviles your name.
- 19 Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild beasts; do not forget the life of your poor forever.
- 20 Have regard for the covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.
- 21 Let not the downtrodden turn back in shame; let the poor and needy praise your name.
- 22 Arise, O God, defend your cause; remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day!
- 23 Do not forget the clamor of your foes, the uproar of those who rise against you, which goes up continually! (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the psalmist's concern? What is the psalmist's request (74:1-2)?
  
- 2 What does the psalmist see (74:3-9)? What does he seem to be describing?
  
- 3 What is the psalmist's question of God (74:10-11)?

4 What is the psalmist's hope (74:12-17)? Explain what the psalmist is describing.

5 Write down all the things the psalmist calls for in verses 18-23. Explain what he is looking for from God.

**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: "God's judgments are awful replies to the defiance of his foes. When he makes empires crumble, and smites persecutors to the heart, his cause is pleaded by himself as none other could have advocated it."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO DO NOT DESTROY. A PSALM OF ASAPH; A SONG.

1 We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds.

2 “At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.

3 When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars. *Selah*

4 I say to the boastful, ‘Do not boast,’ and to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up your horn;

5 do not lift up your horn on high, or speak with haughty neck.”

6 For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up,

7 but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.

8 For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.

9 But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

10 All the horns of the wicked I will cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up. (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

1 Why does the psalmist give thanks (75:1)?

2 What does God say that gives the psalmist hope and causes him to give thanks (75:2-5)? How do these statements give you hope for life?

3 What will God do (75:6-10)? Why should this give God’s people 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: “The covenant God, who delivered Jacob from a thousand afflictions, our soul shall magnify. He has kept his covenant which he made with the patriarch, and has redeemed his seed, therefore will we spread abroad his fame world without end.”*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS. A PSALM OF ASAPH. A SONG..

- 1 In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel.
- 2 His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.
- 3 There he broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war. *Selah*
- 4 Glorious are you, more majestic than the mountains full of prey.
- 5 The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil; they sank into sleep; all the men of war were unable to use their hands.
- 6 At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider and horse lay stunned.

- 7 But you, you are to be feared! Who can stand before you when once your anger is roused?
- 8 From the heavens you uttered judgment; the earth feared and was still,
- 9 when God arose to establish judgment, to save all the humble of the earth. *Selah*
- 10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise you; the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt.
- 11 Make your vows to the LORD your God and perform them; let all around him bring gifts to him who is to be feared,
- 12 who cuts off the spirit of princes, who is to be feared by the kings of the earth. (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the psalmist describing (76:1-6)?
- 2 What point is the psalmist drawing from those descriptions (76:7-9)?
- 3 What does the psalmist instruct the people to do (76:10-12)?

### 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: "He who would defraud God, his own God, is a wretch indeed. He keeps his promises, let not his people fail in theirs. He is their faithful God and deserves to have a faithful people."*



TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO JEDUTHUN. A PSALM OF ASAPH.

- 1 I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me.
- 2 In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.
- 3 When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. *Selah*
- 4 You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
- 5 I consider the days of old, the years long ago.
- 6 I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart." Then my spirit made a diligent search:
- 7 "Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable?
- 8 Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time?
- 9 Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" *Selah*
- 10 Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High."

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.
- 12 I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.
- 13 Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?
- 14 You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples.
- 15 You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah*
- 16 When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled.
- 17 The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side.
- 18 The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook.
- 19 Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.
- 20 You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron. (ESV)

**1** What is the psalmist experiencing (77:1-3)?

**2** What are the psalmist's questions about God? What is he feeling (77:4-10)? Have you felt this way?

**3** What does the psalmist say he will do to work through this difficulty (77:11-12)? What do we learn from this response?

4 What does the psalmist see as he meditates on the Lord (77:13-20)? How do these pictures help the psalmist?

**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: "The earth trembled and shook. It quaked and quaked again. Sympathetic with the sea, the solid shore forgot its quiescence and heaved in dread. How dreadful art thou, O God, when thou comest forth in thy majesty to humble thine arrogant adversaries. "*

A MASKIL OF ASAPH.

- 1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- 3 things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.
- 4 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.
- 5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,
- 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,
- 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;
- 8 and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.
- 9 The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle.
- 10 They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law.
- 11 They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.
- 12 In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
- 13 He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.
- 14 In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light.
- 15 He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
- 16 He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.
- 17 Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.
- 18 They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.
- 19 They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"
- 20 He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?"
- 21 Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel,
- 22 because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power.
- 23 Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven,
- 24 and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.
- 25 Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.
- 26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;
- 27 he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;
- 28 he let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings.
- 29 And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.
- 30 But before they had satisfied their craving, while the food was still in their mouths,
- 31 the anger of God rose against them, and he killed the strongest of them and laid low the young men of Israel.
- 32 In spite of all this, they still sinned; despite his wonders, they did not believe.
- 33 So he made their days vanish like a breath, and their years in terror.
- 34 When he killed them, they sought him; they repented and sought God earnestly.
- 35 They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.
- 36 But they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues.
- 37 Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant.
- 38 Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath.
- 39 He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again.
- 40 How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert!
- 41 They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel.
- 42 They did not remember his power or the day when he redeemed them from the foe,
- 43 when he performed his signs in Egypt and his marvels

- in the fields of Zoan.
- 44 He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams.
- 45 He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them.
- 46 He gave their crops to the destroying locust and the fruit of their labor to the locust.
- 47 He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamores with frost.
- 48 He gave over their cattle to the hail and their flocks to thunderbolts.
- 49 He let loose on them his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels.
- 50 He made a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death, but gave their lives over to the plague.
- 51 He struck down every firstborn in Egypt, the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham.
- 52 Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.
- 53 He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.
- 54 And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won.
- 55 He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.
- 56 Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies,
- 57 but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow.
- 58 For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols.
- 59 When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel.
- 60 He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind,
- 61 and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe.
- 62 He gave his people over to the sword and vented his wrath on his heritage.
- 63 Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song.
- 64 Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation.
- 65 Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of wine.
- 66 And he put his adversaries to rout; he put them to everlasting shame.
- 67 He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,
- 68 but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves.
- 69 He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.
- 70 He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds;
- 71 from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance.
- 72 With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand. (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the purpose of this psalm (78:1-4)?
  
- 2 What does the psalmist want for the next generation (78:5-8)?
  
- 3 What did God do for Israel in the past (78:9-20)?

- 4 What did the people do or not do in response to all God did for Israel (78:9-20)?
- 5 What was the response of the Lord (78:21-22)? Why?
- 6 What did God do for Israel in spite of their sinning and unbelief (78:23-31)?
- 7 What did Israel do in the face of God's grace (78:32)? What was God's response (78:33-34)?
- 8 How did the people of Israel fail God (78:35-37)? What was God's response (78:38-55)? Why?
- 9 What did the people do after God delivered them (78:56-58)? What was God's response (78:59-64)?
- 10 But what did God do for Israel (78:65-72)?

**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: "Thus have we ended this lengthy parable, may we in our life parable have less of sin, and as much of grace as are displayed in Israel's history, and may we close it under the safe guidance of "that great Shepherd of the sheep." AMEN."*

A PSALM OF ASAPH.

- 1 O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
- 2 They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth.
- 3 They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.
- 4 We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.
- 5 How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire?
- 6 Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call upon your name!
- 7 For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.
- 8 Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.
- 9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!
- 10 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of your servants be known among the nations before our eyes!
- 11 Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; according to your great power, preserve those doomed to die!
- 12 Return sevenfold into the lap of our neighbors the taunts with which they have taunted you, O Lord!
- 13 But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise. (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What situation is the psalmist describing (79:1-4)?
- 2 What is the psalmist's question (79:5)? What does the psalmist desire (79:6-7)?
- 3 What does the psalmist petition (79:8-10)? What is the basis for his request?
- 4 What else does the psalmist want God to do (79:11-13)?

### 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: "From the direst calamities God's glory springs, and the dark days of his people become the prelude to unusual displays of the Lord's love and power."*

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. ACCORDING TO LILIES. A TESTIMONY.  
OF ASAPH. A PSALM.

- 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- 2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!
- 3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- 6 You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- 8 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.
- 9 You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.
- 11 It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.
- 12 Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
- 13 The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.
- 14 Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,
- 15 the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.
- 16 They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!
- 17 But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!
- 18 Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!
- 19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved! (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the psalmist's praise and petition (80:1-3)?
- 2 What has God done to Israel (80:4-6)? What does the psalmist say God is angry with? Explain.
- 3 What does the psalmist describe (80:7-13)?
- 4 What does the psalmist call on God to do (80:14-16)?

5 What will the people do if God will restore them (80:17-19)?

**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: "Faith's day grows brighter as the hours roll on; and her prayers grow more full and mighty."*



TO THE CHOIRMASTER. ACCORDING TO THE GITTITH. OF ASAPH.

- 1 Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!
- 2 Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp.
- 3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day.
- 4 For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob.
- 5 He made it a decree in Joseph when he went out over the land of Egypt. I hear a language I had not known:
- 6 "I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket.
- 7 In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. *Selah*
- 8 Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

- 9 There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god.
- 10 I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- 11 "But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.
- 12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.
- 13 Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!
- 14 I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.
- 15 Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever.
- 16 But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you." (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the call to the people (81:1-7)? Why should they do this?
- 2 What was the people's problem (81:8-11)?
- 3 What was God's response (81:12-16)? What did God want to do for his people?

### 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: "When his people walk in the light of his countenance, and maintain unsullied holiness, the joy and consolation which he yields them are beyond conception. To them the joys of heaven have begun even upon earth."*

A PSALM OF ASAPH.

- 1 God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
- 2 “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*
- 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
- 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; 7 nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.”

8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations! (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 Explain the image in the first two verses.
- 2 What is the instruction (82:3-5)?
- 3 Explain the meaning of verses 6-8. Then look at how Jesus uses this psalm in John 10:34.

### 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 thou Judge of all mankind, put the bad judges to thy bar and end their corruption and baseness. Here is the world’s true hope of rescue from the fangs of tyranny.”*

A SONG. A PSALM OF ASAPH.

1 O God, do not keep silence; do not hold your peace or be still, O God!  
 2 For behold, your enemies make an uproar; those who hate you have raised their heads.  
 3 They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together against your treasured ones.  
 4 They say, "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!"  
 5 For they conspire with one accord; against you they make a covenant—  
 6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites,  
 7 Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;  
 8 Asshur also has joined them; they are the strong arm of the children of Lot. *Selah*  
 9 Do to them as you did to Midian, as to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,

10 who were destroyed at En-dor, who became dung for the ground.  
 11 Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,  
 12 who said, "Let us take possession for ourselves of the pastures of God."  
 13 O my God, make them like whirling dust, like chaff before the wind.  
 14 As fire consumes the forest, as the flame sets the mountains ablaze,  
 15 so may you pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your hurricane!  
 16 Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek your name, O LORD.  
 17 Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace,  
 18 that they may know that you alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth. (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the cry of the psalmist? Why is he crying out (83:1-9)?
- 2 What historical event is the psalmist referring to in verses 11-12?
- 3 What does the psalmist call for God to do (83:13-18)?

**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: "He who is self-existent is infinitely above all creatures, all the earth is but his footstool."*

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

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
- 2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
- 3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! *Selah*
- 5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- 6 As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

- 7 They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.
- 8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*
- 9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!
- 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
- 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you! (ESV)

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

- 1 What does the psalmist praise the Lord for in the first four verses?
- 2 What does the psalmist praise the Lord for in verses 5-8?
- 3 What does the psalmist praise the Lord for in verses 9-12?

### 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: "A man must know the Lord by the life of real faith, or he can have no true rejoicing in the Lord's worship, his house, his Son, or his ways. Dear reader, how fares it with thy soul?"* 20

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

- 1 LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. *Selah*
- 3 You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- 4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!
- 5 Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- 6 Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

- 8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
- 9 Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- 11 Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- 12 Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way. (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What does the psalmist remember in the first three verses?
- 2 How do the first three verses lead into the psalmist's request in verses 4-7?
- 3 What does the psalmist call for God to do for his people (85:8-13)? Explain the imagery in this section.

### 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: "God's march of right will leave a track wherein his people will joyfully follow. He who smote in justice will also bless in justice, and in both will make his righteousness manifest, so as to affect the hearts and lives of all his people."*

A PRAYER OF DAVID.

- 1 Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
- 2 Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.
- 3 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.
- 7 In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.
- 8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.
- 9 All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.
- 10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.
- 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.
- 13 For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- 14 O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.
- 15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
- 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant, and save the son of your maidservant.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me. (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the psalmist calling for God to do (86:1-7)? What does he say is the character of God?
- 2 Explain verse 8. What is the message in verses 8-10?
- 3 What does the psalmist want (86:11-13)?
- 4 What does he call for God to do (86:14-17)?
- 5 Write down more characteristics of God that the psalmist proclaims (86:14-17).

**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: "When the Lord gives us his own strength we are sufficient for all emergencies, and have no cause to fear any adversaries."*

A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH. A SONG.

- 1 On the holy mount stands the city he founded;
- 2 the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.
- 3 Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God. *Selah*
- 4 Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon; behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush—  
“This one was born there,” they say.

- 5 And of Zion it shall be said, “This one and that one were born in her”; for the Most High himself will establish her.
- 6 The LORD records as he registers the peoples, “This one was born there.” *Selah*
- 7 Singers and dancers alike say, “All my springs are in you.” (ESV)

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

Make additional notes at left and below:

- 1 What is the psalmist praising (87:1-3)?
- 2 What is “Rahab” (87:4)? Notice that it is included in a list of cities and regions.
- 3 What makes Zion special (87:5-7)?

### 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: “The springs of my faith and all my graces; the springs of my life and all my pleasures; the springs of my activity and all its right doings; the springs of my hope, and all its heavenly anticipations, all lie in thee, my Lord.”*



ASONG.APSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH. TO THE CHOIRMASTER:  
 ACCORDING TO MAHALATH LEANOTH. A MASKIL OF  
 HEMAN THE EZRAHITE.

- 1 O LORD, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you.
- 2 Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry!
- 3 For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.
- 4 I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength,
- 5 like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.
- 6 You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep.
- 7 Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. *Selah*
- 8 You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape;

- 9 my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you.
- 10 Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you? *Selah*
- 11 Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
- 12 Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?
- 13 But I, O LORD, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- 14 O LORD, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me?
- 15 Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am helpless.
- 16 Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me.
- 17 They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together.
- 18 You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness. (ESV)

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

- 1 What is the psalmist experiencing (88:1-9)?
- 2 Who does the psalmist say is responsible for his condition (88:1-9)? Why is he experiencing these troubles?
- 3 What is the psalmist doing during his distress (88:1-9)?
- 4 What is the psalmist explaining in verses 10-12? What is his point?

- 5 How does the psalmist end the psalm (88:13-18)? What does he say he is doing? What does he say God is doing? What does he say he is experiencing?
- 6 What conclusions do you draw about the abrupt end to 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: "A true born child of God may be known by his continuing to cry; a hypocrite is great at a spurt, but the genuine believer holds on till he wins his suit."*

A MASKIL OF ETHAN THE EZRAHITE.

- 1 I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness  
to all generations.
- 2 For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in  
the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."
- 3 You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen  
one; I have sworn to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your  
throne for all generations.'" *Selah*
- 5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your  
faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
- 6 For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?  
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,
- 7 a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy  
ones, and awesome above all who are around him?
- 8 O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O  
LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?
- 9 You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you  
still them.
- 10 You crushed Rahab like a carcass; you scattered your  
enemies with your mighty arm.
- 11 The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the  
world and all that is in it, you have founded them.
- 12 The north and the south, you have created them; Tabor  
and Hermon joyously praise your name.
- 13 You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high  
your right hand.
- 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your  
throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
- 15 Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who  
walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,
- 16 who exult in your name all the day and in your  
righteousness are exalted.
- 17 For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor  
our horn is exalted.
- 18 For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the  
Holy One of Israel.
- 19 Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and  
said: "I have granted help to one who is mighty; I  
have exalted one chosen from the people.
- 20 I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I  
have anointed him,
- 21 so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm  
also shall strengthen him.
- 22 The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not  
humble him.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him and strike down those  
who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with  
him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted.
- 25 I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on  
the rivers.
- 26 He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and  
the Rock of my salvation.'
- 27 And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the  
kings of the earth.
- 28 My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my  
covenant will stand firm for him.
- 29 I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as  
the days of the heavens.
- 30 If his children forsake my law and do not walk  
according to my rules,
- 31 if they violate my statutes and do not keep my  
commandments,
- 32 then I will punish their transgression with the rod and  
their iniquity with stripes,
- 33 but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or  
be false to my faithfulness.
- 34 I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that  
went forth from my lips.
- 35 Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not  
lie to David.
- 36 His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long  
as the sun before me.
- 37 Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful  
witness in the skies." *Selah*
- 38 But now you have cast off and rejected; you are full  
of wrath against your anointed.
- 39 You have renounced the covenant with your servant;  
you have defiled his crown in the dust.
- 40 You have breached all his walls; you have laid his  
strongholds in ruins.
- 41 All who pass by plunder him; he has become the scorn  
of his neighbors.
- 42 You have exalted the right hand of his foes; you have  
made all his enemies rejoice.
- 43 You have also turned back the edge of his sword, and  
you have not made him stand in battle.
- 44 You have made his splendor to cease and cast his  
throne to the ground.
- 45 You have cut short the days of his youth; you have  
covered him with shame. *Selah*
- 46 How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever?

How long will your wrath burn like fire?  
47 Remember how short my time is! For what vanity you  
have created all the children of man!  
48 What man can live and never see death? Who can  
deliver his soul from the power of Sheol? *Selah*  
49 Lord, where is your steadfast love of old, which by  
your faithfulness you swore to David?

50 Remember, O Lord, how your servants are mocked,  
and how I bear in my heart the insults of all the  
many nations,  
51 with which your enemies mock, O LORD, with which  
they mock the footsteps of your anointed.  
52 Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen. (ESV)

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

- 1 What is the psalmist singing (89:1-4)? What did the Lord say (89:1-4)? What is the message?
- 2 What is being declared about the Lord (89:5-11)? What is the "assembly of the holy ones" (89:5,7)?
- 3 Write down the characteristics of the Lord that the psalmist praises (89:12-18)?
- 4 What is proclaimed about David (89:19-37)? What is being promised about him and his offspring?
- 5 What is the problem in light of the promises (89:38-45)?
- 6 What are the concerns and questions of the psalmist (89:36-52)?
- 7 What is the psalmist's hope (89:36-52)?

## **TRANSFORMATION:**

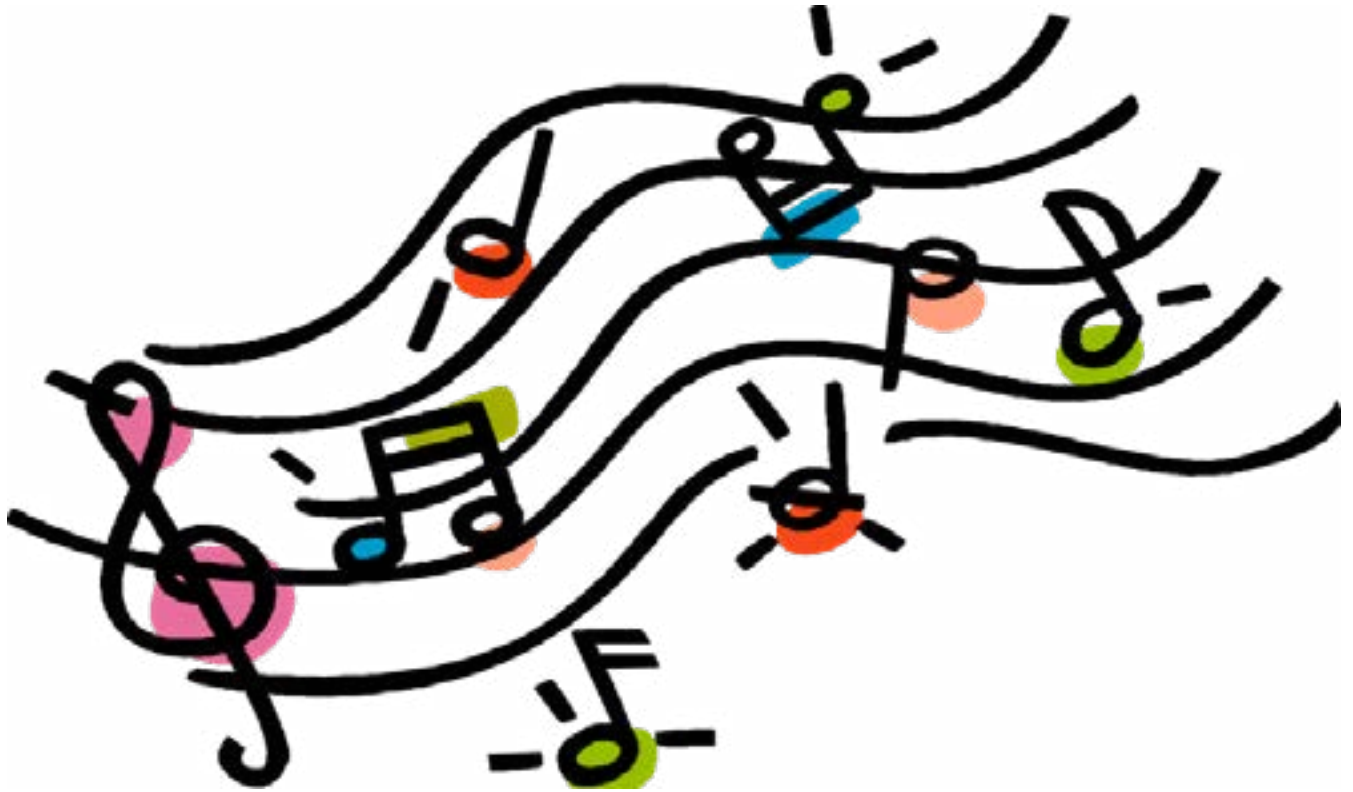
✍ What does this psalm teach you about God?

✍ 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 us bless God before we pray, and while we pray, and when we have done praying, for he always deserves it of us. If we cannot understand him, we will not distrust him. When his ways are beyond our judgment we will not be so foolish as to judge; yet we shall do so if we consider his dealings to be unkind or unfaithful. He is, he must be, he shall be, for ever, our blessed God. Amen, and Amen."*

# PSALMS



INSTRUCTIONS FROM ISRAEL'S BOOK OF SONGS

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VOLUME 5 — PSALMS 73-89

SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville