

Longing for God

Psalms 23; 27; 42; 84

LESSON
3

PSALMS

**Day
1**

Learn the Truth

1. *Looking back:* Last week you learned about trusting God. You wrote about a situation where you wanted to trust Him more. And then you prayed. Choose one question below to answer. Put a ★ by it and write your answer on the lines.

- How did you see God answer your prayers for the situation you wrote about?
- Do you feel like your trust in God has grown stronger through your study last week? Explain.
- What would it mean for you to say, "God is my refuge and my fortress"?

2. *Looking ahead:* This week we will learn about longing for God. When a person **longs** for something, they strongly desire something they may not be able to get. In Psalm 63:1, David wrote that his whole being longed for God just like he longed for a drink of water in the desert.

a. What is something that you wish you could have or would love to do? In other words, what is something you long for?

b. *How would you describe the feeling of really wanting something?

**DISCOVER
IN THIS LESSON**



Deep
inside,
everyone
is longing
for God.

c. Pay attention to that feeling this week. Write down when you feel yourself really wanting or longing for something.

I long for _____

I really want _____

Remember, some weeks it may feel like reading every verse of every psalm is too much. If you feel that way this week, you don't have to read every verse. Just read the verses that go with each question.

**Day
2**

The Lord Provides and Protects—Psalm 23

**HOLY
BIBLE**

God's Word for the Week

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Psalm 84:2

1. Read God's Word for the Week. In this verse, what did the psalmist say that he longed for?

2. Read Psalm 23:1-4. What did you learn about this shepherd? In the space next to the picture, write what you learned.



3. In John 10, Jesus talked about a shepherd and sheep.
a. What did He say about Himself in verses 11 and 14?

- b. What does He do for the sheep?

4. From Psalm 23:5-6, what are the ways that David said God cared for him?

5. *With the Lord as his shepherd, did David have any longings? **Yes** **No**
Explain your answer.

The Lord as Light and Salvation—Psalm 27

Day
3

1. Study God's Word for the Week: Psalm 84:2. What word did the psalmist use to show how strong his longing was?

2. Psalm 27:1-3 talks about how afraid David could have been. Evil people and an army were all around him. But from verse 1, why wasn't he afraid?

3. Read verses 4-5. Instead of asking God to protect him, what did David seek or ask for?

4. Read verses 7-8. Circle **True** or **False** for each statement below.

- | | | |
|------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| True | False | David longed for God to hear him and answer him. |
| True | False | David longed for God to be merciful or gracious to him. |
| True | False | God didn't want David to seek Him. |
| True | False | David did seek God's face. |

5. From verses 13-14, David knew that he would see the goodness of the Lord. But what would he need to do to see what he longed for?

6. How do these words help you with something that you long for?

Day 4

Feeling Downcast—Psalm 42

1. Practice God's Word for the Week: Psalm 84:2. When do you feel like your heart sings for joy to God?

2. Psalm 42:5 and 42:11 say the psalmist was "downcast." Here's another way to say downcast: "Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad?" (NLT) Circle the emojis that best show what this psalmist was feeling.



3. Read verses 1-2.

a. Even while feeling so sad and discouraged, what did the psalmist long for?

b. Draw a picture of what the psalmist compared his longing to.



4. The psalmist had to remind himself of what was true. He gave himself a pep talk. Read the rest of verses 5 and 11.

a. What did the psalmist tell his soul to do?

b. How do you think this might help you when you are sad?

Better Than 1,000 Days Elsewhere—Psalm 84

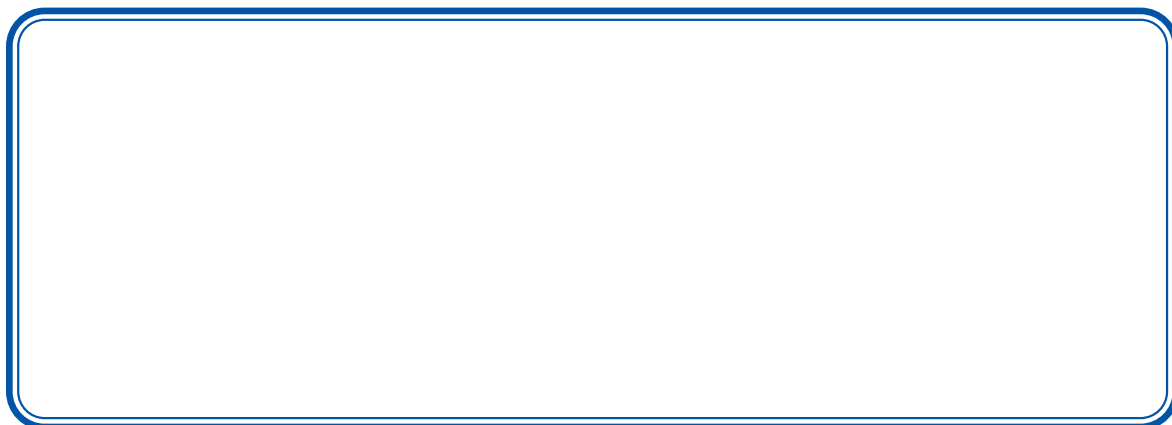
Day
5



In the Old Testament, God's people went to the temple in Jerusalem to be in God's presence. Sometimes this place was called the **tent** or **house** or **courts** or **dwelling place of the Lord**. Those who lived outside of Jerusalem had to travel to where God's presence lived. Today we don't have to go to a specific place to find God. If we believe in Jesus, then the Holy Spirit dwells in us. We can experience God's presence with us anywhere.

1. Say God's Word for the Week: Psalm 84:2. Pretend you are on a journey to Jerusalem to be in God's presence. Take a walk outside and practice saying your verse as you walk.

2. In verses 1-4, the psalmist described how much he longed to be in the courts of the Lord. Draw a picture of what else had found their way to God's house.



3. In verses 10-11, the psalmist longed for one day in God's courts. He said that would be better than 1,000 days elsewhere. What reasons did he give for saying this?

The Lord God is a _____ and a _____.

God gives us _____ and _____.

God does not _____ anything good from those who do what is right.

Grow



When the people in the Old Testament wanted to be in God's presence, they went to the temple in Jerusalem. But now God's Spirit lives in and with those who have put their faith in Christ. If you belong to Jesus, you can meet with Him anywhere.

Where do you go when you want to be with God?

What do you do when you want to enjoy His presence?

What do you long for that you would like to talk to God about?

Spend time talking to God about it.