



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 16, Day 1 --- Psalm 56 - Psalm 120 - Psalm 140-142

Week 16, Day 2 --- 1 Samuel 25-27

Week 16, Day 3 --- Psalm 17 - Psalm 35 - Psalm 54 - Psalm 63

Week 16, Day 4 --- Psalm 18 - 1 Samuel 28-31

Week 16, Day 5 --- Psalm 121 - Psalm 123-125 - Psalm 128-130

Week 16, Day 6 --- 2 Samuel 1-4

Week 16, Day 7 --- Psalm 6 - Psalm 8-10 - Psalm 14 - Psalm 16 - Psalm 19 - Psalm 21

Day 1 --- Psalm 56 - Psalm 120 - Psalm 140-142

David wasn't in prison, but he had no freedom. He was in hiding and if found he could be killed. The threat against his life was real, but so was his trust in God. The psalms are emotional expressions of David's faith. They are also prayers. When you can't think of what to say to God you may find that one of David's prayers fits your situation. Read the psalm aloud to God and He will hear.

- How do these psalms make you feel?
- Which of these psalms do you most identify with? Why?

Day 2 --- 1 Samuel 25-27

It is normal to reward someone who does us a favor even if it is not requested. David was a shepherd and knew how to protect flocks. Nabal had become wealthy because of David's protection. When he refused to share with David he was wrong. However, David was even more wrong to desire revenge. David's vengeance would have gone far beyond what Nabal's insult deserved. Nabal is saved by a very intelligent wife.

Saul will not give up. His focus is on killing David when it could have been on defeating the Philistines and expanding the kingdom. Once again David honors Saul and refuses to kill him even when he has the opportunity.

I think if David had completely trusted God he would have stayed in Israel. It is impossible to know how God might have honored his trust. However, David decides to take up a life of deception and move into Philistine territory.

David is a great man, but not perfect. In the psalms David expresses his trust in God, but in today's passages he also seeks revenge and runs from Saul. He also shows the weakness that will lead to the dividing of his kingdom when he takes two wives.

- How does David demonstrate his lack of trust in God in today's chapters?
- What are you doing that demonstrates that you trust your own ideas more than God's?

Day 3 --- Psalm 17 - Psalm 35 - Psalm 54 - Psalm 63

I don't know what order these psalms were actually written in. As you read them I think you can see David's confidence in God's plan growing. This is the wilderness time of David's life. In the wilderness we learn to depend totally on God. The other important lesson that David teaches us is that we must depend on God for vengeance. God's goodness and love never fail.

- What are the common threads that run through all these psalms?
- How is your own situation similar to David's?

Day 4 --- Psalm 18 - 1 Samuel 28-31

The opening psalm in today's reading is a good example of what the psalms are all about. Remember that David only had words to communicate what he was feeling and experiencing. If David was living today he might have tried to make a movie. Imagine the special effects that would be required to communicate what David is saying. David is painting a word picture. He is trying to communicate some very important ideas in words alone.

In today's section Saul is desperate for guidance and seeks out a medium. This was absolutely against God's law. The spirit world is real, but the medium was surprised by Samuel. I think this is because her business was based on lies and deception. When the real Samuel appeared she was shocked. David is protected by God by being drawn away from one battle into another. David asks God for direction and receives it. Saul goes into battle and dies with most of his sons and the transition of the kingdom from Saul's house to David's house begins.

- What do you feel about God when you read through Psalm 18?
- How do you think it would feel to know that you were going to die tomorrow?

Day 5 --- Psalm 121 - Psalm 123-125 - Psalm 128-130

These psalms are part of a set of psalms called the psalms of ascent. They were songs the people sang as they traveled to Jerusalem at feast time.

- What do you feel as you read them?
- What do they tell you about God?
- What do they tell you about yourself?

Day 6 --- 2 Samuel 1-4

There are times when God is very active. There are other times when God allows things to work out through the normal affairs of men. The transition of power described in these chapters seems incredibly violent to us as Americans. We are used to a bloodless transition of power every 4 or 8 years. This was not normal in ancient times. The change of kings was almost always accompanied by violence even if the transition was within the family. David is very wise and this transition is actually a very peaceful one compared to what is to come.

Even though God had promised David the entire kingdom of Israel it took many years for him to become king of the entire nation. David understood politics while his generals understood power. David's approach wins over the people and unifies the nation with a minimum of bloodshed. However, watch

Joab as the book of 2 Samuel continues. He is an important character and his life and David's life seem to be tied to each other.

- What did everyone expect David to do when one of his enemies was killed?
- Why could David mourn at the death of an enemy?
- How do you feel when an enemy suffers?

Day 7 --- Psalm 6 - Psalm 8-10 - Psalm 14 - Psalm 16 - Psalm 19 - Psalm 21

After you read these psalms describe the feelings David has for God.

- What do feel as you read these psalms?
- What have you learned about God from them?