



# The Book of Psalms

## Psalm 10

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As we study Psalm 10, we are forced to reflect on the apparent silence of God in the face of rampant injustice. We begin with that question many of us have whispered in our darkest moments: Why do you stand afar off, O Lord? This isn't doubt speaking, it's pain. It's the ache of feeling distant from God precisely when we need Him most. What makes this Psalm so powerful is its unflinching honesty about the wicked who seem to prosper while the vulnerable suffer. We see pride at work, not just as arrogance but as a complete rejection of God, living as if He doesn't exist or matter. The wicked operate in shadows, targeting the helpless, convincing themselves that God has forgotten and will never hold them accountable.

Yet this Psalm doesn't leave us in despair. It models a different response than revenge or bitterness. Instead of taking control, we're called to release injustice into God's hands, to cry out Arise, O Lord with bold faith. The journey moves from why to who, from questioning God's presence to declaring His eternal kingship. We discover that God isn't absent, He's observing with the attention of a loving Father. He sees every tear, every injustice, every hidden hurt. And most beautifully, we learn that God prepares our hearts even before we pray, that He hears not just our polished words but the groaning desires we can't articulate. The wicked may be men of earth, temporary and fragile, but our King reigns forever. This is our anchor when everything feels unstable.

## Key Takeaways:

### **1. God Welcomes Our Honest Questions**

The psalmist doesn't hide his raw feelings from God. Asking "Why?" isn't a lack of faith - it's an act of trust when we bring our questions to God rather than turning away from Him.

### **2. The Wicked Prosper Temporarily, Not Ultimately**

God's delayed judgment isn't denial. His timing is perfect, and His justice is certain. What looks like success for the wicked is often the stage being set for judgment.

### **3. God Sees Everything**

Nothing escapes God's gaze. Your pain isn't a statistic to Him—it's a priority. He observes with the heart of a Father, not just as a distant observer.

### **4. We Can Release Justice to God**

We don't have to carry the weight of revenge or making things right ourselves. God calls us to trust Him with injustice and commit our burdens to His stronger hands.

### **5. The Lord is King Forever**

No matter what temporary authority or injustice we face, God's eternal reign is the ultimate reality. Every earthly power has an expiration date.

# 5-Day Devotional

## Day 1: Permission to Question

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*Reading: Psalm 10:1-4; Habakkuk 1:1-4*

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**Devotional:** "Why do you stand afar off, O Lord?" This raw question isn't doubt—it's faith crying out. The psalmist doesn't turn away from God in his confusion; he turns toward Him. Your honest questions don't offend God; they invite intimacy. When life feels heavy and God seems silent, you're not alone in asking "why?" Habakkuk wrestled with similar tensions, boldly bringing his complaints before the Lord. God is big enough to handle your hardest questions. The very act of crying out reveals you still believe someone is listening. Today, bring your unfiltered feelings to God. Your honesty is an act of worship, acknowledging that only He has the answers you desperately need.

**Reflection:** What question have you been afraid to ask God? Write it down and pray it honestly today.

## Day 2: The Danger of Living Without God

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*Reading: Psalm 10:5-7; Romans 1:28-32*

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**Devotional:** "God is in none of his thoughts." This is the heart of wickedness—not loud rebellion, but quiet absence. When we go through our day without seeking God, without acknowledging Him, we drift into dangerous territory. Pride whispers, "I've got this," while humility says, "I can't do this without Him." A life that removes God from its center eventually harms others because people stop being valued as He values them. Paul describes this progression in Romans—when people refuse to retain God in their knowledge, their hearts darken and their actions follow. But here's hope: you can't completely erase God from your soul. Something within longs to know Him. Today, intentionally invite God into your thoughts, decisions, and conversations.

**Reflection:** How many times today have you paused to acknowledge God's presence? Set reminders to seek Him throughout your day.

## Day 3: The Comfort of Being Seen

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*Reading: Psalm 10:14; Genesis 16:1-13; Hebrews 4:13*

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**Devotional:** "But you have seen." After describing injustice and pain, the psalmist declares this powerful truth: God observes everything. Like Hagar in the wilderness, abandoned and helpless, you may feel invisible—but you're not. She called God "El Roi," the God who sees. He doesn't glance at your trouble like a distant observer; He looks with the interest of a Father. Nothing escapes His gaze. Your pain isn't a statistic; it's a priority. When treated unfairly at work, in relationships, or in circumstances beyond your control, remember: He sees. This isn't passive watching—it's active engagement. The same God who sees is the God who acts. You are never invisible to Him. Your struggles matter because you matter.

**Reflection:** Where do you feel unseen right now? Speak to God as "El Roi"—the One who sees you completely.

## Day 4: Leaving Your Burdens at His Feet

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*Reading: Psalm 10:14-15; 1 Peter 5:6-7; Matthew 11:28-30*

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**Devotional:** "The helpless commits himself to you." The Hebrew word means to leave it—to drop a heavy burden at the feet of someone stronger and walk away. Like a child unable to lift something heavy, handing it to their father, we're invited to release what we cannot carry. God doesn't just see our trouble; He extends His hand to repay it. We don't have to plot revenge or lose sleep over injustice. Peter echoes this: "Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." Jesus invites the weary to come and find rest. God specializes in cases the world ignores. He is "the helper of the fatherless"—those with no earthly protector. Today, identify what you're still carrying that God has invited you to release. Name it, pray it, and leave it at His feet.

**Reflection:** What burden are you clinging to instead of releasing to God? Practice physically opening your hands as a prayer of surrender.

## Day 5: The King Reigns Forever

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*Reading: Psalm 10:16-18; Revelation 19:11-16*

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**Devotional:** "The Lord is king forever and ever." The psalm that began with "Why?" ends with "Who!"—a declaration of God's eternal reign. Whatever "Saul" is in your life—whatever authority acts unjustly, whatever situation feels out of control—their term limit is approaching. God's reign is eternal. Past victories fuel present faith. When you remember the memorial stones of God's faithfulness, you find strength for today's giants. He prepared the hearts of the humble to pray, and He will answer. The "man of the earth"—temporary, fragile, made of dust—will oppress no more. Revelation shows us the end of the story: the King on the white horse brings final justice. We don't live in fear of earthly power because our King is eternal. Trust Him. Let Him prepare your heart. Wait patiently for His justice.

**Reflection:** Look back at your spiritual "memorial stones"—times God proved faithful. How does remembering His past faithfulness strengthen your present faith?

## Practical Applications:

Choose at least one of the following to practice this week:

1. **Practice Honest Prayer:** Set aside time to pray like the psalmist—bringing your raw, unfiltered questions and feelings to God without pretense.
  2. **Create a Memorial Stone:** Write down 3-5 past victories where God showed up in your life. Keep this list visible to fuel your faith when facing current struggles.
  3. **Examine Hidden Areas:** Ask God to reveal any areas of your life you're keeping in "secret places." Confess them and bring them into the light.
  4. **Release a Burden:** Identify one situation where you're trying to control outcomes or seek revenge. Physically write it down, pray over it, and symbolically "hand it to God" by destroying the paper.
  5. **Stand with the Helpless:** Find one practical way this week to defend, help, or advocate for someone who is vulnerable—reflecting God's heart for the fatherless and oppressed.
  6. **Meditate on God's Kingship:** When you face injustice or frustration this week, pause and declare: "The Lord is king forever and ever." Let this truth reframe your perspective.
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### Key Verses to Remember

- **Psalm 10:14** "But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, to repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless."
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## Small Group Guide: Lamb Selection Day

### Discussion Questions:

Section 1: The Cry of Distance (Psalm 10:1-4)

1. Why do you think the psalmist feels comfortable asking God such direct questions? What does this teach us about the kind of relationship God wants with us?
2. Brody asked: "When God feels distant, do you feel relieved or grieved?" What does your answer reveal about the state of your heart?
3. How can we avoid the pattern of living "without God in our thoughts" even while maintaining religious activities?

## Section 2: The Reality of the Wicked (Psalm 10:5-11)

4. Why is it so hard to watch the wicked prosper? Share a specific situation where you've struggled with this tension.
5. The wicked convince themselves "God has forgotten" and "He will never see." In what subtle ways might we fall into similar thinking—believing our hidden sins don't matter because they're unseen?
6. Brody contrasted how the wicked and the righteous view God's distance. How can we cultivate hearts that grieve God's absence rather than feel comfortable with it?

## Section 3: The Cry for Justice (Psalm 10:12-15)

7. "Arise, O Lord" is a bold prayer. When was the last time you prayed with this kind of urgency? What holds us back from praying this way?
8. Brody mentioned David's restraint with Saul—choosing prayer over revenge. Share about a time when you had to choose between taking matters into your own hands or waiting on God.
9. What does it practically look like to "commit yourself to God" (verse 14) in your current circumstances?

## Section 4: Confidence in God's Reign (Psalm 10:16-18)

10. "The Lord is king forever and ever." How does remembering God's eternal kingship change your perspective on current injustices or struggles?
11. Brody said, "Past victories are the fuel for present faith." What past victories in your life (or in Scripture) can you remember when facing current giants?
12. God "prepares our hearts" before we even pray. How does this truth encourage you when you don't have words to pray?

## Further Discussion Questions:

- When God feels distant in your life, do you find yourself relieved or grieved, and what does your honest answer reveal about the state of your heart?

- The psalmist asks God to let the wicked be caught in the plots they have devised. How does trusting God with justice differ from seeking revenge, and where do you struggle to release control?
- Brody describes how the wicked live as though God does not see them. In what areas of your life do you sometimes act as if your choices will not be held accountable before God?
- How does the concept that God is not afraid of your questions change the way you approach prayer during seasons of doubt or suffering?
- The wicked are described as targeting the vulnerable and helpless. In what practical ways can you reflect God's heart for the oppressed and fatherless in your community?
- What does it mean that God prepares your heart before you even come to Him in prayer, and how does this understanding affect your view of your own spiritual desires?
- Brody contrasts living in the light versus hiding in the shadows. What areas of secrecy in your life need to be brought before God, even if no one else sees them?
- How can remembering God's past faithfulness, like the memorial stones in Joshua, fuel your faith when facing current trials or injustice?
- The psalmist declares that God is king forever, even while living under the unjust reign of Saul. What earthly authority or difficult circumstance tempts you to forget God's eternal reign?

- What does it practically look like to commit your burdens to God and walk away, trusting that He will handle what you cannot control?

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