



Psalms

Psalm 9:1-20

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This study of Psalm 9 invites us into a better understanding of wholehearted worship and unwavering trust in God's sovereignty. We discover that true praise isn't merely singing songs on Sunday mornings, but encompasses every aspect of our lives, our words, actions, attitudes, and relationships.

The psalm reveals David's remarkable ability to worship God completely even amid intense trials, reminding us that authentic faith declares 'God, you are God' regardless of our circumstances. We learn that worship involves multiple dimensions: praising with complete devotion, remembering and sharing God's works, rejoicing in His character, and celebrating through song. Perhaps most challenging is the call to examine whether we're asking God to join our side in life's battles, or whether we're ensuring we stand on His side.

This distinction transforms how we approach conflict, suffering, and uncertainty. The psalm also confronts our tendency to forget God, not intellectually, but practically, by living as though He doesn't matter in our daily decisions. But God never abandons us.

5-Day Devotional and Small Group Guide

Day 1: Wholehearted Worship

Reading: Psalm 9:1-2; Mark 12:28-30

Devotional: David's declaration to praise God with his "whole heart" challenges our fragmented worship. In our distracted world, we often offer God partial attention - singing on Sunday while our minds wander to tomorrow's concerns. Wholehearted worship means complete devotion: heart, mind, emotions, and actions aligned toward God. It's not merely singing the right songs but living with undivided loyalty to Him. When Jesus identified loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength as the greatest commandment, He echoed this same truth. Today, examine where your worship might be divided. Are you holding back areas of your life from God's lordship? True worship flows from sincerity and deep love, not religious routine.

Day 2: Remembering God's Faithfulness

Reading: Psalm 9:3-6; 1 Samuel 17:34-37

Devotional: David's confidence in God's victory wasn't theoretical - it was rooted in experience. Whether this psalm celebrated Goliath's defeat or another victory, David understood that remembering God's past faithfulness strengthens present faith. When facing the giant, David recalled how God delivered him from lions and bears. Our testimonies matter. Telling others about God's marvelous works isn't boasting; it's proclamation that builds faith in ourselves and others. In seasons of doubt, rehearse God's faithfulness. Remember answered prayers, unexpected provisions, and times He carried you through impossible circumstances. These memories become anchors when new storms arise. God who defended you yesterday remains your defender today.

Day 3: God's Righteous Judgement

Reading: Psalm 9:7-8; Acts 17:30-31

Devotional: We celebrate God's mercy readily but sometimes overlook praising Him for His justice. Yet David worshiped God specifically because "He has prepared His throne for judgment." God's righteous rule brings hope to the oppressed and accountability to the wicked. This isn't vindictiveness - it's the assurance that wrongs will be made right. Paul proclaimed this same truth: God has appointed a day to judge the world through Christ, proven by His resurrection. For believers, this brings comfort, not fear. The Judge is also our Savior. His justice means evil won't triumph forever, suffering isn't meaningless, and truth will prevail. In a world of injustice, we can rest knowing God sees everything and will ultimately establish perfect righteousness.

Day 4: God Never Forsakes Those Who Seek Him

Reading: Psalm 9:9-10; Hebrews 13:5-6

Devotional: "You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You." This promise sustains believers through life's darkest valleys. Yet there are moments when God feels distant - after sin, during prolonged suffering, when prayers seem unanswered. These feelings are real but not truth. David affirms that knowing God's character builds trust that transcends emotions. The Hebrew word for "times of trouble" describes being cut off from hope, trapped in despair. Even then, God remains our refuge. The key is seeking Him - not casually, but persistently pursuing deeper knowledge of His character through Scripture and prayer. As we learn who God truly is, trust becomes natural. His presence

doesn't depend on our feelings; His faithfulness is anchored in His unchanging nature.

Day 5: Humility Before God

Reading: Psalm 9:19-20; James 4:6-10

Devotional: David's closing prayer reveals profound wisdom: "Let the nations know themselves to be but men." Humanity's greatest danger is forgetting our limitations while exaggerating our importance. We're not infinite, all-knowing, or self-sufficient - we're finite beings utterly dependent on God for every breath. This recognition isn't meant to crush us but to position us rightly. When we acknowledge our frailty, we're freed from the exhausting pretense of self-reliance and opened to God's strength. James echoes this: "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humility isn't thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less and God more. Today's political upheavals, personal challenges, and uncertain futures remind us: God holds ultimate victory. Our role is humble trust.

Small Group Guide: Jesus Prays for Himself

Key Takeaways:

1. **Wholehearted Worship** - True worship involves our entire person: heart, mind, emotions, and actions
2. **God as Our Refuge** - God is especially present during our deepest and most desperate moments
3. **Knowing God Leads to Trust** - The more we understand God's character, the more confidently we can trust Him
4. **God's Sovereignty Over Human Plans** - No human action can overthrow God's ultimate purpose
5. **The Danger of Forgetting God** - Living as though God doesn't matter leads to spiritual ruin

Discussion Questions:

- David wrote Psalm 9 with wholehearted devotion to God even during difficult times. What would it look like for you to praise God with your whole heart in the midst of your current challenges?
- Brody emphasizes that worship involves every aspect of our lives, not just singing songs. How can you transform your daily activities into acts of worship?
- David recognized that his victory over enemies came from God's presence and power, not his own strength. In what areas of your life are you tempted to rely on your own abilities rather than trusting in God's intervention?
- Brody states that we should not ask God to join our side, but ensure we are standing on His side. How do you discern whether your desires and causes align with God's will rather than your own preferences?

- David praised God not only for His mercy but also for His righteous judgment. Why do you think modern worship often emphasizes God's grace while overlooking His justice, and how does this imbalance affect our faith?
- Brody mentions that we betray Jesus every time we sin, yet Judas betrayed Him for money while we do it for free. How does this perspective change the way you view your own sin and need for repentance?
- Forgetting God does not mean lacking knowledge of Him, but living as though He does not matter. In what practical ways do you find yourself forgetting God's presence, authority, or justice in your daily decisions?
- David declares that God is a refuge in times of trouble, especially when we feel cut off from hope. When have you experienced God as your refuge during a season of desperation, and how did that shape your trust in Him?
- The psalm teaches that sin often carries the seeds of its own destruction, as the wicked fall into traps they set for others. Can you identify examples in Scripture or your own life where sinful actions led to self-inflicted consequences?
- David prays that nations would recognize themselves to be but men, humble and dependent on God. How does remembering your own limitations and mortality affect the way you approach God in prayer and worship?

Practical Applications:

Choose one of the following to put into practice this week:

Option 1: Wholehearted Praise

- Set aside 10 minutes each day to practice the four forms of praise David mentions:
 - Praise God with your whole heart (sincere devotion)

- Tell of His marvelous works (remember what He's done)
- Be glad and rejoice in Him (find joy in His character)
- Sing praise to His name (worship through music or spoken praise)

Option 2: Declare His Deeds

- Identify one person you can share God's faithfulness with this week
- Write down or prepare what you'll share about what God has done in your life
- Follow through with the conversation

Option 3: Know God Better

- Choose one attribute of God's character to study this week (His justice, mercy, faithfulness, sovereignty, etc.)
- Look up 3-5 Scripture passages that reveal this aspect of God's character
- Journal about how this knowledge affects your trust in Him

Option 4: Prayer Life

- Commit to praying daily about current circumstances while remembering "God holds it all"
- Include elements from Psalm 9 in your prayers:
 - Praise for who God is
 - Trust in His refuge
 - Recognition of His sovereignty
 - Humility before Him

Further Discussion Questions:

David mentions several forms of praise: wholehearted devotion, telling of God's works, rejoicing, and singing. Which of these comes most naturally to you?

Which is most challenging?

Brody stated that "worship is every aspect of our lives given unto the Lord." How does this definition challenge or expand your current understanding of worship?

What are some practical ways you can incorporate worship into your daily routine beyond Sunday morning?

David praised God not just for mercy, but also for His righteousness and justice. Why is it important to worship God for both His mercy AND His justice?

Brody warned: "The goal is not to ask God to join our side, but to ensure that we are standing on his side." How can we examine whether we're truly aligned with God's will in our conflicts and challenges?

How does knowing that God has appointed a day of judgment (Acts 17:31) affect how you live today?

The Hebrew word for "times of trouble" describes situations where "distress has become so intense that it feels like there is no escape." Can you relate to this feeling? How does knowing God is a refuge in these moments encourage you?

The sermon listed several situations when people may feel God has left them:

- After sin (guilt and shame)
- During severe trouble
- When facing major responsibilities
- When prayers seem unanswered

Which of these resonates most with your current experience? How can the group support you?

"Those who know your name will put their trust in you" (v. 10). How does growing in knowledge of God's character increase our ability to trust Him?

David exhorts others to "declare his deeds among the people." The sermon noted that "for some reason, we've lost that ability... we don't tell other people what God has done." Why do you think Christians struggle to share what God has done in their lives?

What is one specific thing God has done in your life that you could share with someone this week?

The sermon described "forgetting God" as "living as though he does not matter." It listed several ways we forget God:

- Forgetting God's majesty
- Forgetting God's mercy
- Forgetting God's law
- Forgetting God's presence
- Forgetting God's justice

Which of these do you find yourself most prone to forget in daily life?

Brody stated: "We betray him for free. We sin against them for free." How does this perspective challenge you to take sin more seriously?

David prays that nations would "know themselves to be but men" (v. 20). How does recognizing our human limitations and dependence on God change our approach to life's challenges?

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