



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Two

Jacob continued our series, Deliver Us From Evil. In what can feel counter-intuitive, the scripture reminds us that we don't have to fear evil. If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/signup](http://prov.church/signup) and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray the Lord's Prayer together:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

---

### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: PSALM 23.4

*Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.*

- The 23rd Psalm has been a source of strength in times of trial generation after generation. I've heard more than one parent express to their child, "Stop crying, there's nothing to be afraid of!" What David the Psalm writer knew was a God who was like a shepherd who is present. The reason we don't need to fear evil is because God is with us. God comforts us. When has your attempt to tough it out a push down your fear backfired? How did God show up?
- *Pray for a stronger sense of God's presence with you in difficult situations.*

TUESDAY: PSALM 91.4-6

*He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

<sup>5</sup>*You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
<sup>6</sup>nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.*

- For many people, terror comes in the middle of the night when the world is quiet. Our minds and hearts become susceptible to thoughts, doubts and evil itself. Of course those things are possible in the daylight as well--but there is just more around to drown them out. When are you most likely to get caught up worrying about things that steal your joy or reveal your shortcomings?
- *Pray for supernatural peace throughout the day and night that comes from our God who is your refuge.*

WEDNESDAY: 1 JOHN 4.4

*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

- This seems like a simple concept, but it can be quite difficult. The God who is in us is bigger than the evil forces of this world. When have you found that hard to believe? What are some ways you can be reminded of that truth?
- *Pray for confidence and assurance that God is indeed bigger than whatever force you are coming up against today.*

THURSDAY: ISAIAH 41.13

*For I am the LORD your God  
who takes hold of your right hand  
and says to you, Do not fear;  
I will help you.*

- These words from the prophet Isaiah were recorded well before God sent his Son Jesus to break any perceived barriers between heaven and earth. From our perspective, it is possibly easier to imagine God being close enough to take hold of our right hand. Has God ever used a person in your life to steady you as you began to give in to fear?
- *Pray for a sense of God's closeness to you in times of fear and in times of strength.*

FRIDAY: JOHN 14.27

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

- This talk from Jesus has been an anchor for my faith and the faith of millions. When evil rears its ugly head, we have this promise from our Savior that his peace is available to us. What's the difference between "peace" offered up by the world and the peace of Jesus?
- *Pray that the peace of Christ would invade every thought, action, and decision you make today.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 146.3-6

*Do not put your trust in princes,  
in human beings, who cannot save.*

<sup>4</sup>*When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
on that very day their plans come to nothing.*

<sup>5</sup>*Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God.*

<sup>6</sup>*He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.*

- The concept of fear has been a point of debate in recent months. But the real question ought to be, "Where do you put your trust?" Our trust is in God. The "princes" of this world will clamor for our attention, but "blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord." Are there times where God's faithfulness has seemed overshadowed by the demands of worldly princes?
- *As you pray, picture God in His rightful place as ruler of your life and of your heart.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Jacob said, "Evil is real. But you don't have to fear evil. Evil means a spirit that is working like God is not on the throne, but guess what? God is on the throne. That's not true. That's a trick. Just like the one the snake pulled in the garden." What tricks have you noticed being "pulled" in the world around you? How do you withstand those tricks?
- Jacob said, "If you fear evil, you have a meltdown or you high tail it in the other direction, but when you know you don't have to fear, you stand." In what moments are you most likely to remember that you don't have to fear evil? In what moments are you most likely to take a stand?