



WEEKLY STUDY

Summer in the Psalms - Week 11

In our penultimate week in our Summer in the Psalms, we listened and prayed through Psalm 126. As you study and pray this week, may you find fresh reminders of God's faithfulness.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for those who have trouble remembering or sharing with others the good works of God.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: PSALM 126 (NIV)

*When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.*

*² Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.*

*Then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."*

³ *The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.*

⁴ *Restore our fortunes, LORD,
like streams in the Negev.*

⁵ *Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.*

⁶ *Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.*

- In verses 1-3, the psalmist is praising God for past restoration. God had brought his people out of a long season of captivity. What is your story of restoration? How do you follow up the statement, “God has been so good to me!”?

- **Prayer Prompt: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1.3-5)**
- *God, I confess that I do not always remember to tell the stories of your goodness in my life. The present crisis can consume my attention. Would you send your Spirit to bring boldness to my witness? Amen.*

TUESDAY: PSALM 126 (NIV)

- In verse 4-6, the Psalmist is petitioning God to complete the restoration. Sometimes when we see God show up in a big way, there is still work for us to do. You finally get back home, but your home is a mess. Will God just leave us in the mess? No, but we might need to sweep and do some laundry. (Or in the Psalmist's case, build the wall and restore the place of worship.) And when the restoration is complete, we can still give credit to God for it all!

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- **Prayer Prompt: He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” (Revelation 21.5)**
 - *God, work a restoration in me. You know where things are crumbling and in disrepair. Make me new O God! Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: PSALM 126 (NIV)

- We have confidence in God’s blessing. At first read, it can be difficult to figure out where the Psalmist is in Psalm 126. Beginning with God’s history sets the tone for a request of further intervention. Do you have a person in your life who reminds you of God’s past faithfulness?
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- **Prayer Prompt: trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3.5-6)**
- *Lord God, would you use me today in the life of someone who is struggling to see a way forward? Use me to point them back to your mighty deeds, and to encourage them of your steadfast love. Amen.*

THURSDAY: PSALM 126 (NIV)

- We don’t grow weary of declaring the goodness of God. Have you ever noticed that every new song of worship that is introduced to the church carries a very similar message at its core? When the world is at war, when the economy is making daily life difficult, when we experience loss or feel like we are in captivity, we still sing about God’s faithfulness. We cry out like the Psalmists and still we return to our experiences of God. As Pastor Gary says, God has a track record with us! How do you stay anchored in God’s faithfulness when you are walking through a storm?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become**

**weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
(Galatians 6.8-9)**

- *God, I am looking forward to the next harvest season. For all of the tears that have been planted, there will be quite a gathering of grain! Amen.*

FRIDAY: PSALM 126 (NIV)

- Hebrews 12 tells us, “For the joy set before him, Christ endured the cross.” This might sound like “hang in there” theology, but it was demonstrated for us by Jesus himself. Joy does not require pretending, but it does require faith in Christ. True joy comes through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

- **Prayer Prompt: For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12.2-3)**
- *O God, I want to live this day in the joy that was set before Jesus as he endured suffering before he overcame sin and death for me. Amen.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 126 (NIV)

- When people around you are pointing out God’s faithfulness to you, you ought to pay attention! While our relationship with God is personal, it also requires community. It is complete when it is shared with others. Those who were saying “the Lord has done great things for them” were not necessarily followers of God. See how your story might reflect the goodness of God to an unbelieving world!

- **Prayer Prompt: I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (John 15.11)**
- *God, thank you for using the ups and downs of my life as a stage for your faithfulness. You are on display in my life! Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, commit to reading a Psalm each day throughout the next several months (until October). You may have received a handout at Providence that will help you to keep track. When you come together as a small group, share with one another the ways in which God is speaking to you through each Psalm.

This week: Psalms 71-77

Does this Psalm reflect your words to God?

What is God saying to you through this Psalm?

Is there something you are invited to do in response to this Psalm?

What challenges you about this Psalm?