

**NORTHWEST BIBLE CHURCH**

READING PLAN—WEEK 1  
READ + LISTEN + RESPOND



> JANUARY 13, 2013 — READ PSALM 3.

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**READ GOD'S WORD:**

*<sup>1</sup>Lord, how numerous are my enemies! Many attack me.<sup>2</sup>Many say about me, "God will not deliver him."<sup>3</sup>But you, Lord, are a shield that protects me; you are my glory and the one who restores me. <sup>4</sup>To the Lord I cried out, and he answered me from his holy hill. <sup>5</sup>I rested and slept; I awoke, for the Lord protects me. <sup>6</sup>I am not afraid of the multitude of people who attack me from all directions. <sup>7</sup>Rise up, Lord! Deliver me, my God! Yes, you will strike all my enemies on the jaw; you will break the teeth of the wicked. <sup>8</sup>The Lord delivers; you show favor to your people.*

**LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD:**

How are David's enemies attacking him? What are they doing? What are they saying?

Who or what is David's source of comfort and security in the midst of these attacks?

**RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD:**

Have you ever been spiritually "bullied" like David was? Have you ever believed the lie that your sins were too great for God's love, or that God's love was conditional upon your good works?

David is comforted by God's glory, holiness, strength and grace. How are these qualities of God revealed to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus?

**PRAYER:**

*Father, I am constantly tempted to believe the gospel is not true ... to believe that your love for me is conditional upon my good works, or that my sin is too great for you to love me. May the good news of Jesus protect me from believing such lies! Thank you for defeating sin and death through your Son, Jesus! Amen.*

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> JANUARY 14, 2013 — READ PSALM 4.

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**READ GOD'S WORD:**

*<sup>1</sup>When I call out, answer me, O God who vindicates me! Though I am hemmed in, you will lead me into a wide, open place. Have mercy on me and respond to my prayer! <sup>2</sup>You men, how long will you try to turn my honor into shame? How long will you love what is worthless and search for what is deceptive? <sup>3</sup>Realize that the Lord shows the godly special favor; the Lord responds when I cry out to him. <sup>4</sup>Tremble with fear and do not sin! Meditate as you lie in bed, and repent of your ways! <sup>5</sup>Offer the prescribed sacrifices and trust in the Lord! <sup>6</sup>Many say, "Who can show us anything good?" Smile upon us, Lord! <sup>7</sup>You make me happier than those who have abundant grain and wine. <sup>8</sup>I will lie down and sleep peacefully, for you, Lord, make me safe and secure.*

**LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD:**

How did David respond when the people around him tried to get him to doubt God's goodness (v. 6)?

What does David want these people to understand (v. 3)? How does He want them to respond to God (vv. 4-5)?

**RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD:**

David's joy is challenged through an attack on his integrity (v. 2). Is it difficult for you to be joyful when doing the right thing leads others to despise you?

What other things might be keeping you from finding joy in the Lord? What might you need to repent of this week?

**PRAYER:**

*Father, give me true joy based on my identity in Christ, not in what others think of me. May I live according to the fear of the Lord, not of men. May the certainty of who I am in You give me peace when I am challenged to believe something other than the truth of the gospel.*

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> **JANUARY 15, 2013 — READ PSALM 5.**

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**READ GOD'S WORD:**

*<sup>1</sup>Listen to what I say, Lord! Carefully consider my complaint! <sup>2</sup>Pay attention to my cry for help, my king and my God, for I am praying to you! <sup>3</sup>Lord, in the morning you will hear me; in the morning I will present my case to you and then wait expectantly for an answer. <sup>4</sup>Certainly you are not a God who approves of evil; evil people cannot dwell with you. <sup>5</sup>Arrogant people cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who behave wickedly. <sup>6</sup>You destroy liars; the Lord despises violent and deceitful people. <sup>7</sup>But as for me, because of your great faithfulness I will enter your house; I will bow down toward your holy temple as I worship you. <sup>8</sup>Lord, lead me in your righteousness because of those who wait to ambush me, remove the obstacles in the way in which you are guiding me! <sup>9</sup>For they do not speak the truth; their stomachs are like the place of destruction, their throats like an open grave, their tongues like a steep slope leading into it. <sup>10</sup>Condemn them, O God! May their own schemes be their downfall! Drive them away because of their many acts of insurrection, for they have rebelled against you. <sup>11</sup>But may all who take shelter in you be happy! May they continually shout for joy! Shelter them so that those who are loyal to you may rejoice! <sup>12</sup>Certainly you reward the godly, Lord. Like a shield you protect them in your good favor.*

**LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD:**

What does it tell you about God that “arrogant people cannot stand” in His presence (v. 5)?

How is David able to enter God's house (v. 7)?

**RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD:**

Why is it crucial to believe that the only way we will be able to enter God's presence is “because of His great faithfulness” (v. 7)? What event in history is the greatest display of God's faithfulness?

How might verses 4-6 spur you on the preach the gospel to your unbelieving friends?

**PRAYER:**

*Father, all people are arrogant and unbelieving, and only through your grace do we come to love you and believe in your Son who died for us and rose again. Will you protect me from my enemies? Yet I also pray for them to believe, and I pray that you will use me to share the gospel with them. Amen.*

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> **JANUARY 16, 2013 — READ PSALM 5:1-3 AND MARK 1:29-35.**

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**READ GOD'S WORD:**

*<sup>1</sup>Listen to what I say, Lord! Carefully consider my complaint! <sup>2</sup>Pay attention to my cry for help, my king and my God, for I am praying to you! <sup>3</sup>Lord, in the morning you will hear me; in the morning I will present my case to you and then wait expectantly for an answer. (Psalm 5:1-3).*

*<sup>29</sup>Now as soon as they left the synagogue, they entered Simon and Andrew's house, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Simon's mother-in-law was lying down, sick with a fever, so they spoke to Jesus at once about her. <sup>31</sup>He came and raised her up by gently taking her hand. Then the fever left her and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup>The whole town gathered by the door. <sup>34</sup>So he healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. But he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>Then Jesus got up early in the morning when it was still very dark, departed, and went to a deserted place, and there he spent time in prayer. (Mark 1:29-35).*

**LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD:**

**Why did Jesus take time away from healing and casting out demons to pray? What does that tell us about His relationship with God?**

**What do Jesus' miracles (healing, casting out demons, raising the dead), tell us about His mission? How are His miracles related to His mission to save us from our sins?**

**RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD:**

**If Jesus made time regularly to pray, what does that say about how we should devote ourselves to prayer? Why might the morning be a good time to seek the Lord in prayer?**

**Do you set aside time each day to pray? If not, when would be a good time for you to do so?**

**PRAYER:**

*Father, thank you that Jesus is our faithful example for all of life, and that communion with you in prayer is a significant part of that life. Like Jesus, may I abide with you and listen to you in prayer on a daily basis. Amen.*

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> JANUARY 17, 2013 — READ PSALM 6.

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**READ GOD'S WORD:**

*<sup>1</sup>Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger! Do not discipline me in your raging fury! <sup>2</sup>Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am frail! Heal me, Lord, for my bones are shaking! <sup>3</sup>I am absolutely terrified, and you, Lord – how long will this continue? <sup>4</sup>Relent, Lord, rescue me! Deliver me because of your faithfulness! <sup>5</sup>For no one remembers you in the realm of death, In Sheol who gives you thanks? <sup>6</sup>I am exhausted as I groan; all night long I drench my bed in tears; my tears saturate the cushion beneath me. <sup>7</sup>My eyes grow dim from suffering; they grow weak because of all my enemies. <sup>8</sup>Turn back from me, all you who behave wickedly, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping! <sup>9</sup>The Lord has heard my appeal for mercy; the Lord has accepted my prayer. <sup>10</sup>May all my enemies be humiliated and absolutely terrified! May they turn back and be suddenly humiliated!*

**LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD:**

What can you learn about contrition and repentance from this Psalm?

On what basis does David base his plea for deliverance (v. 4)? Why is that important?

**RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD:**

When you realize you are in sin, how do you respond? What does that say about the condition of your heart before God?

What does it mean to fear the Lord (vv. 2-4)? How does Jesus change the way we can approach God?

**PRAYER:**

*Father, I recognize that often times, many of the hard circumstances I face are a result of sin against You. In such moments, may I give thanks for the hard times, repent of my sin, and enjoy my restored fellowship with You. Amen.*