

Psalm 100 Be Thankful

CHARACTERS: Leader, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 100

LEADER: Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth.

ALL: Serve the Lord with gladness;

LEADER: come before Him with joyful songs.

ALL: Acknowledge that Yahweh is God.

LEADER: He made us, and we are His — His people, the sheep of His pasture.

ALL: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

LEADER: Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

ALL: For Yahweh is good, and His love is eternal; His faithfulness endures through all generations.

Psalm 101 The King's Vow of Integrity

CHARACTERS: David, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 101

DAVID: I will sing of faithful love and justice;

ALL: I will sing praise to You, Lord.

DAVID: I will pay attention to the way of integrity.

ALL: When will You come to me?

DAVID: I will live with a heart of integrity in my house.

ALL: I will not set anything worthless before my eyes.

DAVID: I hate the practice of transgression; it will not cling to me.

ALL: A devious heart will be far from me; I will not be involved with evil.

DAVID: I will destroy anyone who secretly slanders his neighbor;

ALL: I cannot tolerate anyone with haughty eyes or an arrogant heart.

DAVID: My eyes favor the faithful of the land so that they may sit down with me.

ALL: The one who follows the way of integrity may serve me.

DAVID: No one who acts deceitfully will live in my palace;

ALL: no one who tells lies will remain in my presence.

DAVID: Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land, eliminating all evildoers from the Lord's city.

Psalm 101 Interview with King David

CHARACTERS: David, News Reporters 1, 2 & 3

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 101, James 4

REPORTER 2: David, how do you intend to start your reign as king?

DAVID: I will sing of faithful love and justice; I will sing praise to the Lord.

REPORTER 2: How do you feel about integrity in places of power?

DAVID: I will pay attention to the way of integrity and live with a heart of integrity in my house.

REPORTER 3: Your predecessor, Saul, fell out of favor with God. It was disastrous. How will you avoid it?

DAVID: Saul disobeyed by keeping the best of the plunder. I will not set anything worthless like that before my eyes.

REPORTER 2: What about your advisors? What are you looking for in your key staff?

DAVID: A devious heart will be far from me; I will not be involved with evil or those who secretly slanders their neighbor.

REPORTER 2: Why?

DAVID: Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it.

REPORTER 3: So you're saying that when you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it?

DAVID: Yes. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy, our God Almighty.

REPORTER 2: Transparency in government is important. But sometimes those in power become wise in their own eyes.

DAVID: I cannot tolerate anyone with haughty eyes or an arrogant heart. God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble

REPORTER 2: So your eyes favor the faithful of the land so that they may sit down with you.

DAVID: Yes

REPORTER 3: So are you saying those who follow the way of integrity may serve you?

DAVID: Exactly. No one who acts deceitfully will live in my palace; no one who tells lies will remain in my presence.

REPORTER 2: Why is that important to you?

DAVID: I once lied to save my life, rather than trust God to do it. Seventy priests died as a result. Never again.

REPORTER 3: What about wicked people in our city?

DAVID: Every morning I will eliminate all evildoers from the Lord's city.

Psalm 102 Affliction in Light of Eternity

CHARACTERS: Job, Jeremiah, David, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 102

AS YOU READ: Some verses sound like they could have been written by Job. How do you know Job is not the author? Jeremiah was tagged as the weeping prophet, was often imprisoned for his prophecy, once by being dropped into a muddy pit. Could he have authored this Psalm? Why or why not?

JEREMIAH: This is a prayer of an afflicted person who is weak and pours out his lament before the Lord.

JOB: Lord, hear my prayer; let my cry for help come before You.

JEREMIAH: Do not hide Your face from me in my day of trouble.

ALL: Listen closely to me; answer me quickly when I call.

JOB: For my days vanish like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

ALL: My heart is afflicted, withered like grass;

JOB: I even forget to eat my food.

ALL: Because of the sound of my groaning, my flesh sticks to my bones.

JOB: I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.

ALL: I stay awake; I am like a solitary bird on a roof.

JOB: My enemies taunt me all day long; they ridicule and curse me.

ALL: I eat ashes like bread and mingle my drinks with tears

JOB: because of Your indignation and wrath; for You have picked me up and thrown me aside.

ALL: My days are like a lengthening shadow, and I wither away like grass.

DAVID: But You, Lord, are enthroned forever; Your fame endures to all generations.

JEREMIAH: You will rise up and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her—

ALL: the appointed time has come.

DAVID: For Your servants take delight in its stones and favor its dust.

JEREMIAH: Then the nations will fear the name of Yahweh, and all the kings of the earth Your glory,

ALL: for the Lord will rebuild Zion; He will appear in His glory.

JEREMIAH: He will pay attention to the prayer of the destitute and will not despise their prayer.

DAVID: This will be written for a later generation, and a newly created people will praise the Lord:

ALL: He looked down from His holy heights—

DAVID: the Lord gazed out from heaven to earth—

JEREMIAH: to hear a prisoner's groaning, to set free those condemned to die,

ALL: so that they might declare the name of Yahweh in Zion

DAVID: and His praise in Jerusalem, when peoples and kingdoms are assembled to serve the Lord.

JOB: He has broken my strength in midcourse; He has shortened my days.

ALL: I say: "My God, do not take me in the middle of my life!

JEREMIAH: Your years continue through all generations.

ALL: Long ago, You established the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

DAVID: They will perish, but You will endure; all of them will wear out like clothing.

ALL: You will change them like a garment, and they will pass away.

JEREMIAH: But You are the same, and Your years will never end.

ALL: Your servants' children will dwell securely, and their offspring will be established before You.

Hard times and Praise

CHARACTERS: Job, Jeremiah, David, Isaiah, Voice of God, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 6 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 102, Job 23:1, Isaiah 65:24, James 4, Proverbs 17:22, Psalm 84:3-4, 1 Peter 2:5-6, Zechariah 9:9-11, 16; Revelation 19:6-7, 21: 3-4, 22:5, 12-13

JEREMIAH: This is a prayer of an afflicted person who is weak and pours out his lament before the Lord.

DAVID: Yet realizes God is in charge and all will be well through Him

JOB: Lord, hear my prayer; let my cry for help come before You.

JEREMIAH: Do not hide Your face from me in my day of trouble.

ALL: Even today my complaint is bitter; God's hand is heavy in spite of my groaning.

ISAIAH: But you have promised to hear our prayers.

VOICE of GOD: Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.

ALL: Yes, Lord! Listen closely to me; answer me quickly when I call.

JOB: For my days vanish like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

ALL: We are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

DAVID: We ought to say,

ALL: If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.

DAVID: No boasting about arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

JOB: A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

ALL: My heart is afflicted, withered like grass;

JOB: I even forget to eat my food.

ALL: Because of the sound of my groaning, my flesh sticks to my bones.

JOB: I am like a desert owl, like an owl among the ruins.

ALL: I stay awake; I am like a solitary bird on a roof.

DAVID: Yet even a bird may make its home at the temple,

ALL: Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,

DAVID: where she may have her young— a place near your altar,

ALL: Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

DAVID: Blessed are those who dwell in your house;

ALL: they are ever praising you.

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JOB: My enemies taunt me all day long; they ridicule and curse me.

ALL: I eat ashes like bread and mingle my drinks with tears

JOB: because of Your indignation and wrath; for You have picked me up and thrown me aside.

ALL: My days are like a lengthening shadow, and I wither away like grass.

DAVID: But You, Lord, are enthroned forever; Your fame endures to all generations.

JEREMIAH: You will rise up and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her—

ALL: the appointed time has come.

DAVID: For Your servants take delight in its stones and favor its dust.

ALL: We are like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house

JEREMIAH: to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God

ALL: through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

VOICE of GOD: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone,

ALL: and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.

JEREMIAH: Then the nations will fear the name of Yahweh, and all the kings of the earth Your glory,

ALL: for the Lord will rebuild Zion; He will appear in His glory.

JEREMIAH: He will pay attention to the prayer of the destitute and will not despise their prayer.

DAVID: This will be written for a later generation, and a newly created people will praise the Lord:

ALL: He looked down from His holy heights—

DAVID: the Lord gazed out from heaven to earth—

JEREMIAH: to hear a prisoner's groaning, to set free those condemned to die,

ALL: so that they might declare the name of Yahweh in Zion

DAVID: and His praise in Jerusalem, when peoples and kingdoms are assembled to serve the Lord.

ALL: Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

DAVID: See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,

ALL: lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

DAVID: He will proclaim peace to the nations.

ALL: His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

VOICE of GOD: As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

DAVID: The Lord their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock.

ALL: They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.

JOB: He has broken my strength in midcourse; He has shortened my days.

ALL: I say: My God, do not take me in the middle of my life!

JEREMIAH: God, your years continue through all generations.

ALL: Long ago, You established the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

DAVID: They will perish, but You will endure; all of them will wear out like clothing.

ALL: You will change them like a garment, and they will pass away.

JEREMIAH: But You are the same, and Your years will never end.

ALL: Your servants' children will dwell securely, and their offspring will be established before You.

DAVID: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

JEREMIAH: Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.

ALL: They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

JOB: He will wipe every tear from their eyes.

ALL: There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,

DAVID: for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne says,

VOICE OF GOD: I am making everything new! Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

DAVID: I did not see a temple in the city,

ALL: because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

JEREMIAH: The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it,

ALL: for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

JOB: There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun,

ALL: for the Lord God will give them light.

DAVID: And they will reign for ever and ever.

VOICE OF GOD: Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

ALL: He is the Alpha and the Omega,

ISAIAH: the First and the Last,

JOB: the Beginning and the End.

ALL: Amen! Praise God in whom we hope and trust!

Psalm 105 God's Faithfulness to His People

CHARACTERS: Joseph, Judah, All, Voice of God, Aaron, Moses

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 105

JOSEPH: Give thanks to Yahweh, call on His name;

JUDAH: proclaim His deeds among the peoples.

ALL: Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell about all His wonderful works!

JOSEPH: Honor His holy name;

JUDAH: let the hearts of those who seek Yahweh rejoice.

ALL: Search for the Lord and for His strength;

JOSEPH: seek His face always.

JUDAH: Remember the wonderful works He has done,

ALL: His wonders, and the judgments He has pronounced,

JOSEPH: He is the Lord our God;

ALL: His judgments govern the whole earth.

JUDAH: He remembers His covenant forever,

ALL: the promise He ordained for a thousand generations—

JOSEPH: the covenant He made with Abraham, swore to Isaac,

ALL and confirmed to Israel as an everlasting covenant:

VOICE OF GOD: I will give the land of Canaan to you as your inherited portion.

ALL: When they were few in number,

JOSEPH: very few indeed, and temporary residents in Canaan,

ALL: wandering from nation to nation and from one kingdom to another,

JUDAH: He allowed no one to oppress them;

ALL: He rebuked kings on their behalf:

VOICE OF GOD: Do not touch My anointed ones, or harm My prophets.

JOSEPH: He called down famine against the land and destroyed the entire food supply.

JUDAH: He had sent a man ahead of them—

ALL: Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

JUDAH: They hurt his feet with shackles;

JOSEPH: My neck was put in an iron collar, until the time his prediction came true,

ALL: the word of the Lord tested him.

JUDAH: The king sent for him and released him;

ALL: the ruler of peoples set him free.

JOSEPH: He made me master of his household, ruler over all his possessions—

ALL: binding his officials at will and instructing his elders.

JUDAH: Then Israel went to Egypt;

ALL: Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

JOSEPH: The Lord made His people very fruitful;

ALL: He made them more numerous than their foes, whose hearts He turned to hate His people

JUDAH: and to deal deceptively with His servants.

AARON: He sent Moses His servant,

MOSES: and Aaron, whom He had chosen.

ALL: They performed His miraculous signs among them,

AARON: and wonders in the land of Ham.

MOSES: He sent darkness, and it became dark— for did they not defy His commands?

ALL: He turned their water into blood and caused their fish to die.

AARON: Their land was overrun with frogs, even in their royal chambers.

ALL: He spoke, and insects came— gnats throughout their country.

MOSES: He gave them hail for rain, and lightning throughout their land.

ALL: He struck their vines and fig trees and shattered the trees of their territory.

AARON: He spoke, and locusts came— young locusts without number.

ALL: They devoured all the vegetation in their land and consumed the produce of their land.

MOSES: (*soberly*) He struck all the firstborn in their land,

ALL: (*sadly*) all their first progeny.

AARON: Then He brought Israel out with silver and gold, and no one among His tribes stumbled.

ALL: Egypt was glad when they left, for the dread of Israel had fallen on them.

MOSES: He spread a cloud as a covering and gave a fire to light up the night.

ALL: They asked, and He brought quail and satisfied them with bread from heaven.

AARON: God opened a rock, and water gushed out;

ALL: it flowed like a stream in the desert.

MOSES: For He remembered His holy promise to Abraham His servant.

ALL: He brought His people out with rejoicing,

AARON: His chosen ones with shouts of joy.

ALL: He gave them the lands of the nations, and they inherited what other peoples had worked for.

MOSES: All this happened so that they might keep His statutes and obey His instructions.

ALL: Hallelujah!

Psalm 106 Israel's Unfaithfulness to God

CHARACTERS: Moses, Aaron, ALL, Voice of God

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 5 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 106

MOSES: Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

ALL: His faithful love endures forever.

AARON: Who can declare the Lord's mighty acts or proclaim all the praise due Him?

ALL: How happy are those who uphold justice, who practice righteousness at all times.

MOSES: Remember me, Lord, when You show favor to Your people.

ALL: Come to me with Your salvation so that I may enjoy the prosperity of Your chosen ones,

AARON: rejoice in the joy of Your nation, and boast about Your heritage.

ALL: Both we and our fathers have sinned;

AARON: we have done wrong and have acted wickedly.

ALL: Our fathers in Egypt did not grasp the significance of Your wonderful works or remember Your many acts of faithful love;

MOSES: instead, they rebelled by the sea—the Red Sea.

ALL: Yet God saved them because of His name, to make His power known.

AARON: He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up;

ALL: He led them through the depths as through a desert.

MOSES: He saved us from the hand of the adversary;

ALL: He redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

AARON: Water covered their foes; not one of them remained.

ALL: Then they believed His promises and sang His praise.

MOSES: They soon forgot His works and would not wait for His counsel.

ALL: They were seized with craving in the wilderness and tested God in the desert.

AARON: He gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease among them.

ALL: In the camp, they were envious of Moses and of Aaron, the Lord's holy one.

MOSES: The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan; it covered the assembly of Abiram.

ALL: Fire blazed throughout their assembly; flames consumed the wicked.

MOSES: At Horeb, they made a calf and worshiped the cast metal image.

ALL: They exchanged their glory for the image of a grass-eating ox.

AARON: (*ashamed*) We forgot God their Savior, who did great things in Egypt,

MOSES: wonderful works in the land of Ham,

ALL: awe-inspiring acts at the Red Sea.

VOICE OF GOD: I would have destroyed them if Moses my chosen one had not stood before me in the breach to turn my wrath away from destroying them.

AARON: They despised the pleasant land and did not believe His promise.

ALL: They grumbled in their tents and did not listen to the Lord's voice.

MOSES: So He raised His hand against them with an oath that He would make them fall in the desert

ALL: and would disperse their descendants among the nations, scattering them throughout the lands.

AARON: They aligned themselves with Baal of Peor and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods.

ALL: They provoked the Lord with their deeds, and a plague broke out against them.

MOSES: But Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stopped.

ALL: It was credited to him as righteousness throughout all generations to come.

AARON: They angered the Lord at the waters of Meribah, and Moses suffered because of them;

ALL: for they embittered his spirit, and he spoke rashly with his lips.

MOSES: They did not destroy the peoples as the Lord had commanded them but mingled with the nations and adopted their ways.

ALL: They served their idols, which became a snare to them.

AARON: (*horrified*) They sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons.

ALL: They shed innocent blood— the blood of their sons and daughters whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan;

MOSES: so the land became polluted with blood.

ALL: They defiled themselves by their actions and prostituted themselves by their deeds.

AARON: Therefore, the Lord's anger burned against His people, and He abhorred His own inheritance.

ALL: He handed them over to the nations; those who hated them ruled them.

MOSES: Their enemies oppressed them, and they were subdued under their power.

ALL: He rescued them many times, but they continued to rebel deliberately and were beaten down by their sin.

AARON: When He heard their cry, He took note of their distress,

ALL: remembered His covenant with them,

MOSES: and relented according to the riches of His faithful love.

ALL: He caused them to be pitied before all their captors.

AARON: Save us, Yahweh our God, and gather us from the nations,

ALL: so that we may give thanks to Your holy name and rejoice in Your praise.

MOSES: May Yahweh, the God of Israel, be praised from everlasting to everlasting.

AARON: Let all the people say,

ALL: Amen! Hallelujah!

Psalm 107 Thanksgiving for God's Deliverance

CHARACTERS: Leader, Samson, Hagar, Moses, Lot, David, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 107

After the first read through, split readers into four groups and assign each one a scripture to read. When they assemble back together, each group should report how their passage relates to the characters narrating and how this might influence the way lines are read. (Genesis 11:14-21, Jonah 1, Judges 16:14-21, Genesis 19:17-29, Exodus 17:1-7, 2 Samuel 12:15-23) Are there other passages and characters that could have been used? Why or why not?

LEADER: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

ALL: His faithful love endures forever.

LEADER: Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim that He has redeemed them from the hand of the foe

ALL: and has gathered them from the lands—

LEADER: from the east and the west,

ALL: from the north and the south.

LEADER: Some wandered in the desolate wilderness,

HAGAR: finding no way to a city where they could live.

ALL: They were hungry and thirsty;

HAGAR: their spirits failed within them.

ALL: Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble;

HAGAR: He rescued them from their distress.

ALL: He led them by the right path to go to a city where they could live.

HAGAR: Let them give thanks to the Lord for His faithful love

ALL: and His wonderful works for all humanity.

HAGAR: For He has satisfied the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things.

LEADER: Others sat in darkness and gloom—

SAMSON: prisoners in cruel chains—

ALL: because they rebelled against God's commands

SAMSON: and despised the counsel of the Most High.

ALL: He broke their spirits with hard labor;

SAMSON: they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

ALL: Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble;

SAMSON: He saved them from their distress.

ALL: He brought them out of darkness and gloom and broke their chains apart.

SAMSON: Let them give thanks to the Lord for His faithful love

ALL: and His wonderful works for all humanity.

SAMSON: For He has broken down the bronze gates and cut through the iron bars.

LEADER: Fools suffered affliction because of their rebellious ways and their sins.

DAVID: They loathed all food and came near the gates of death.

ALL: Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble;

DAVID: He saved them from their distress.

ALL: He sent His word and healed them;

DAVID: He rescued them from the Pit.

ALL: Let them give thanks to the Lord for His faithful love and His wonderful works for all humanity.

DAVID: Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and announce His works with shouts of joy.

LEADER: Others went to sea in ships, conducting trade on the vast waters.

JONAH: They saw the Lord's works, His wonderful works in the deep.

ALL: He spoke and raised a tempest that stirred up the waves of the sea.

JONAH: Rising up to the sky, sinking down to the depths,

ALL: their courage melting away in anguish,

JONAH: they reeled and staggered like drunken men, and all their skill was useless.

ALL: Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distress.

JONAH: He stilled the storm to a murmur, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

ALL: They rejoiced when the waves grew quiet.

JONAH: Then He guided them to the harbor they longed for.

ALL: Let them give thanks to the Lord for His faithful love and His wonderful works for all humanity.

SAMSON: Let them exalt Him in the assembly of the people and praise Him in the council of the elders.

MOSES: He turns rivers into desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,

LOT: and fruitful land into salty wasteland, because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

ALL: He turns a desert into a pool of water, dry land into springs of water.

LOT: He causes the hungry to settle there, and they establish a city where they can live.

ALL: They sow fields and plant vineyards that yield a fruitful harvest.

MOSES: He blesses them, and they multiply greatly;

ALL: He does not let their livestock decrease.

MOSES: When they are diminished and are humbled by cruel oppression and sorrow,

ALL: He pours contempt on nobles and makes them wander in a trackless wasteland.

MOSES: But He lifts the needy out of their suffering and makes their families multiply like flocks.

ALL: The upright see it and rejoice, and all injustice shuts its mouth.

MOSES: Let whoever is wise pay attention to these things

ALL: and consider the Lord's acts of faithful love.

Psalm 108 A Plea for Victory

CHARACTERS: David,

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 108

DAVID: My heart is confident, God; I will sing;

ALL: I will sing praises with the whole of my being.

DAVID: Wake up, harp and lyre! I will wake up the dawn.

ALL: I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples;

DAVID: I will sing praises to You among the nations.

ALL: For Your faithful love is higher than the heavens, and Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

DAVID: God, be exalted above the heavens, and let Your glory be over the whole earth.

ALL: Save with Your right hand and answer me so that those You love may be rescued.

DAVID: God has spoken in His sanctuary:

VOICE OF GOD: I will triumph! I will divide up Shechem. I will apportion the Valley of Succoth. Gilead is Mine, Manasseh is Mine, and Ephraim is My helmet; Judah is My scepter. Moab is My washbasin; I throw My sandal on Edom. I shout in triumph over Philistia.

DAVID: Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom?

ALL: God, haven't You rejected us?

DAVID: God, You do not march out with our armies.

ALL: Give us aid against the foe, for human help is worthless.

DAVID: With God we will perform valiantly;

ALL: He will trample our foes.

Psalm 109 Prayer against an Enemy

CHARACTERS: David, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 109

After the first read through, read 2 Samuel 16:5-14. How does this passage relate to Psalm 109? How might it influence how the lines are read?

DAVID: God of my praise, do not be silent for wicked and deceitful mouths open against me;

ALL: they speak against me with lying tongues.

DAVID: They surround me with hateful words and attack me without cause.

ALL: In return for my love, they accuse me, but I continue to pray.

DAVID: They repay me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

ALL: Set a wicked person over him; let an accuser stand at his right hand.

DAVID: When he is judged, let him be found guilty, and let his prayer be counted as sin.

ALL: Let his days be few; let another take over his position.

DAVID: Let his children be fatherless and his wife a widow.

ALL: Let his children wander as beggars, searching for food far from their demolished homes.

DAVID: Let a creditor seize all he has; let strangers plunder what he has worked for.

ALL: Let no one show him kindness, and let no one be gracious to his fatherless children.

DAVID: Let the line of his descendants be cut off; let their name be blotted out in the next generation.

ALL: Let his ancestors' guilt be remembered before the Lord,

DAVID: and do not let his mother's sin be blotted out.

ALL: Let their sins always remain before the Lord,

DAVID: and let Him erase all memory of them from the earth.

ALL: For he did not think to show kindness, but pursued the afflicted, poor, and brokenhearted in order to put them to death.

DAVID: He loved cursing—let it fall on him;

ALL: he took no delight in blessing—let it be far from him.

DAVID: He wore cursing like his coat— let it enter his body like water and go into his bones like oil.

ALL: Let it be like a robe he wraps around himself, like a belt he always wears.

DAVID: Let this be the Lord's payment to my accusers, to those who speak evil against me.

ALL: But You, Yahweh my Lord, deal kindly with me because of Your name;

DAVID: deliver me because of the goodness of Your faithful love.

ALL: For I am afflicted and needy; my heart is wounded within me.

DAVID: I fade away like a lengthening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust.

ALL: My knees are weak from fasting, and my body is emaciated.

DAVID: I have become an object of ridicule to my accusers;

ALL: when they see me, they shake their heads in scorn.

DAVID: Help me, Lord my God; save me according to Your faithful love

ALL: so they may know that this is Your hand and that You, Lord, have done it.

DAVID: Though they curse, You will bless.

ALL: When they rise up, they will be put to shame, but Your servant will rejoice.

DAVID: My accusers will be clothed with disgrace; they will wear their shame like a cloak.

ALL: I will fervently thank the Lord with my mouth; I will praise Him in the presence of many.

DAVID: For He stands at the right hand of the needy

ALL: to save him from those who would condemn him.

Psalm 110 The King, the Priest

CHARACTERS: David, Voice of God, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 110

Read Genesis 14:17-23, Hebrews 5:1-10, 6:20-7:28 for information on Melchizedek

DAVID: This is the declaration of the Lord to my Lord:

VOICE OF GOD: Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool.

ALL: The Lord will extend Your mighty scepter from Zion.

DAVID: Rule over Your surrounding enemies.

ALL: Your people will volunteer on Your day of battle.

DAVID: In holy splendor, from the womb of the dawn, the dew of Your youth belongs to You.

ALL: The Lord has sworn an oath and will not take it back:

VOICE OF GOD: Forever, You are a priest like Melchizedek.

ALL: The Lord is at Your right hand; He will crush kings on the day of His anger.

DAVID: He will judge the nations, heaping up corpses;

ALL: He will crush leaders over the entire world.

DAVID: He will drink from the brook by the road;

ALL: therefore, He will lift up His head.

Psalm 111 Praise for the Lord's Works

CHARACTERS: David, Solomon, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 111, Romans 1:20

DAVID: Hallelujah! I will praise the Lord with all my heart in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

ALL: The Lord's works are great, studied by all who delight in them.

SOLOMON: All that He does is splendid and majestic;

ALL: God's invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world,

DAVID: being understood through what He has made.

ALL: His righteousness endures forever.

DAVID: He has caused His wonderful works to be remembered.

ALL: The Lord is gracious and compassionate.

SOLOMON: He has provided food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

ALL: He has shown His people the power of His works by giving them the inheritance of the nations.

DAVID: The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His instructions are trustworthy.

ALL: They are established forever and ever, enacted in truth and in what is right.

SOLOMON: He has sent redemption to His people.

ALL: He has ordained His covenant forever.

DAVID: His name is holy and awe-inspiring.

SOLOMON: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

ALL: all who follow His instructions have good insight. His praise endures forever.

Psalm 112 The Traits of the Righteous

CHARACTERS: David, Solomon, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 112

After the first reading: The inscription of Psalm 112 in the Syriac version is, "When David in it commanded Solomon his son, saying, Keep the commandments of, the Lord, and worship him: likewise the calling of the Gentiles and the righteousness of Christ." Which of these possibilities seems most likely to you?

DAVID: Hallelujah!

ALL: Happy is the man who fears the Lord, taking great delight in His commands.

DAVID: His descendants will be powerful in the land;

ALL: the generation of the upright will be blessed.

SOLOMON: Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

ALL: Light shines in the darkness for the upright.

DAVID: He is gracious, compassionate, and righteous.

ALL: Good will come to a man who lends generously and conducts his business fairly.

SOLOMON: He will never be shaken.

ALL: The righteous man will be remembered forever.

DAVID: He will not fear bad news; his heart is confident, trusting in the Lord.

ALL: His heart is assured; he will not fear.

DAVID: In the end, he will look in triumph on his foes.

SOLOMON: He distributes freely to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.

ALL: His horn will be exalted in honor.

DAVID: The wicked man will see it and be angry;

ALL: he will gnash his teeth in despair. The desire of the wicked man will come to nothing.

Psalm 113 Praise to the God of Mercy

CHARACTERS: Leader, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 113

Before you read, read Luke 1:5-7, 24-25; 1 Samuel 1:1-2, 20; Genesis 21:1-6. Which of these women would be the most likely to identify with this Psalm? Why?

LEADER: Hallelujah! Give praise, servants of Yahweh;

ALL: praise the name of Yahweh.

LEADER: Let the name of Yahweh be praised both now and forever.

ALL: From the rising of the sun to its setting, let the name of Yahweh be praised.

LEADER: Yahweh is exalted above all the nations,

ALL: His glory above the heavens.

LEADER: Who is like Yahweh our God— the One enthroned on high,

ALL: who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

LEADER: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the garbage pile

ALL: in order to seat them with nobles— with the nobles of His people.

LEADER: He gives the childless woman a household, making her the joyful mother of children.

ALL: Hallelujah!

Psalm 114 God's Deliverance of Israel

CHARACTERS: Moses, Joshua, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 114

Before you read, consider Joshua 3:14-17; Hebrews 11:27-29

MOSES: When Israel came out of Egypt—

ALL: the house of Jacob from a people who spoke a foreign language—

JOSHUA: Judah became His sanctuary, Israel, His dominion.

ALL: The sea looked and fled; the Jordan turned back.

MOSES: The mountains skipped like rams, the hills, like lambs.

ALL: Why was it, sea, that you fled? Jordan, that you turned back?

JOSHUA: Mountains, that you skipped like rams? Hills, like lambs?

ALL: Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,

MOSES: at the presence of the God of Jacob,

ALL who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

Psalm 115 Glory to God Alone

CHARACTERS: Aaron the Priest, Scoffer, ALL

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 115

AARON: Not to us, Yahweh, not to us, but to Your name give glory

ALL: because of Your faithful love, because of Your truth.

AARON: Why should the nations say,

SCOFFER: Where is their God?

ALL: Our God is in heaven and does whatever He pleases.

AARON: Their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands.

ALL: They have mouths but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see.

AARON: They have ears but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell.

ALL: They have hands but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk.

AARON: They cannot make a sound with their throats.

ALL: Those who make them are just like them, as are all who trust in them.

AARON: Israel, trust in the Lord!

ALL: He is their help and shield.

AARON: House of Aaron, trust in the Lord!

ALL: He is their help and shield.

AARON: You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord!

ALL: He is their help and shield.

AARON: The Lord remembers us and will bless us.

ALL: He will bless the house of Israel;

AARON: He will bless the house of Aaron;

ALL: He will bless those who fear the Lord— small and great alike.

AARON: May the Lord add to your numbers, both yours and your children's.

ALL: May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

AARON: The heavens are the Lord's, but the earth He has given to the human race.

ALL: It is not the dead who praise the Lord, nor any of those descending into the silence of death.

AARON: But we will praise the Lord, both now and forever.

ALL: Hallelujah!