

Session 1: Songs

Scripture questions:

When you think of singing songs to God, how would you describe the content and emotions of those songs? Are there topics and emotions that should or should not be expressed to God? Why?

Psalm 47:1-9

What motivates this song of praise? What specific perspectives about God drive this song? Take a moment to write a one-sentence summary of this song.

Psalm 74:1-23

How would you describe the emotions of this song? What does the worshipper expect from God?

Psalm 137:1-9

The psalms reflect the full range of human experiences. What thoughts and emotions drive this song? How does the addition of this song in the book of Psalms shape your understanding about the types of emotions we share with God?

Psalm 116:1-19

What differences do you see in the motivations of the four songs that you read? What drives

the joy of the singer? What is her/his attitude toward God?

Psalm 40:1-17

Psalm 50:1-23

Psalm 93:1-5

Read each of these chapters before viewing the LEARN video. After viewing the video, identify whether the songs in each of these chapters is a Hymn of Praise, a Lament, or a Song of Thanksgiving.

The term “**wisdom**” in this module refers to content, while “**poetic**” refers to the writing style.

Hebrew poetry emphasizes thought flow and generally works with two lines at a time. The writer will do one of three things:

- Repeat the idea of the first line in the second line, in order to emphasize something.
- Develop the idea, adding more information to the original idea of the first line in the second line.
- State the opposite of the first line in the second line to drive home a contrast.

The book of **Psalms**, or “The Psalter” is the **largest book in the Bible** and is made up of five smaller books. The purpose of psalms (songs) are to express raw emotion, both good and bad.

Psalm: means “song”

The three types of songs found in Psalms are:

- Hymn of Praise- songs that glorify God for who He is.
- Lament- songs that express the sorrow of the singer coupled with a petition for God to act.
- Song of Thanksgiving- songs that worship God for something He has done.

Can you identify the type of songs found in Psalm 40, Psalm 50, and Psalm 93?

Application Questions:

Why is it hard to share your sorrows and frustrations with God? How can doing so empower your faith?

In your life right now, would your psalm to God be a hymn of praise, lament, or a song of thanksgiving? Write that psalm and share it with someone.

How honest are you with God in your own life? How can you become more honest in your worship, prayer, and daily walk with God? What are some ways that you can encourage others in your life to be honest with God?

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