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THE PROMISED KING

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

*Put the “formed” back
in biblically “informed.”*

*Let’s take that next step
together to be formed
by God’s word, in God’s
ways, with God’s people,
every day.*

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WELCOME



The Christmas season is about God's chosen King, come to earth to rescue his people and redeem his creation. It's a story that is foretold, among other places, in Israel's prayer book, the Psalms. This Advent season we are exploring the story of the promised king woven throughout this prayer book — this is the story of the Messiah whom God appointed over the kings of this earth.

FOCUS ON MEDITATION

As you join us this Advent season, use this booklet as a devotional that will help you dig into, and meditate on the five messianic psalms we'll consider on Sunday mornings. Daily exercises will guide you to explore key themes, and their connection to New Testament passages about the birth of Jesus. Each week will also include an online video to deepen your understanding of the book of Psalms and how to better read this ancient book. Finally, on Saturdays you will reflect on the lyrics of a classic Christmas hymn and listen to it performed by the worship leaders from our five Christ Community campuses.

HOW DO I MAKE THE MOST OF MY DEVOTIONAL?

01 | SIGN UP

This devotional is NOT *theFormed.life*, but it is a companion, a place to process what you're learning through prayer, sermons, songs, and confessions. It's a place to help you capture prayer requests and questions to discuss in groups. This devotional is where you record your personal story in the journey, but the guide is still the Spirit of God through *theFormed.life*.

02 | CARRY IT WITH YOU

Bring this devotional to church gatherings on Sundays for your sermon notes, community group gatherings throughout the week, and your daily quiet time. If it's not with you, you won't use it.

03 | USE IT DAILY

Write something in it EVERY DAY. Even if you can only write, "God, where are you? You feel far," do that. Each day there is space to capture what God is saying and doing. God wants to hear you and sometimes we need to see our own feelings, thoughts, and desires written out to process what God is doing in our lives.

FOLLOWING ALONG WITH *theFormed.life*

Here is the weekly flow for this series:

Sunday - Join others around God's word for corporate worship

Monday - Slow down and meditate on the psalm for this week

Tuesday - Listen to and study the written psalm in depth

Wednesday - Observe and share as you continue to examine and explore the psalm text

Thursday - Watch the Bible Project video online and reflect on what you learn

Friday - Connect the psalm with New Testament passages about the birth of Jesus

Saturday - Worship through hymns: reading, listening, and watching

**SCRIPTURE
DISCOVERY:**

During this session of the Formed.life we are spending time connecting to each psalm through meditation and exploration.

We encourage you to take a deeper dive into each psalm to help you grow in your relationship with God and discover something new in these psalms.

Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage

and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,

and the rulers take counsel together,

against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,

3 “Let us burst their bonds apart

and cast away their cords from us.”

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;

the Lord holds them in derision.

5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,

and terrify them in his fury, saying,

6 “As for me, I have set my King

on Zion, my holy hill.”

7 I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;

today I have begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

and the ends of the earth your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron

and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

be warned, O rulers of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear,

and rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son,

lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

- English Standard Version -

DISCOVERY STUDY INSTRUCTIONS

**PREPARE:**

Use these prompts to study the psalm in depth throughout the week.

Use the psalm printed out for you each week, and follow the daily guidelines. Consider using different colored pens or highlighters. Don't "cheat" by looking at a Bible. There is no "correct" answer, the goal is to discover something new in God's word.

MONDAY

Listen to or read the psalm out loud and copy the verses noted.

TUESDAY

- Underline any repeated words or phrases. Use different colored pens or markers for each repeated word or phrase.
- Highlight words of blessing, and that provide a picture of the blessed life
- Underline people or ideas opposed to God (i.e. sinners, the wicked, etc.)
- Circle metaphors (i.e. like a tree planted; like dried leaves)
- Put boxes around key phrases
- Make special note of any "king" language (words like king, kingdom, rule, reign, throne, etc.)

WEDNESDAY

- Divide the psalm into paragraphs using a solid line so each paragraph is centered around a particular theme or idea
- Label each paragraph in the margin based on the idea or theme that it contains
- Observe the structure, logical progression, and flow of the psalm
- Make note of what stands out to you

PSALM 1 (DISCOVERY EXAMPLE)

1 **Blessed** is the man

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

nor stands in the way of sinners,

nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,

and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree

planted by streams of water

that **yields its fruit** in its season,

and its leaf does **not wither**.

In all that he does, he **prosper**s.

4 The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked will perish.

This is an example of what this might look like for Psalm 1.

A solid line was used to divide the psalm into paragraphs.

Labeled each paragraph in the margin. Words of blessing were **highlighted** to provide a picture of the blessed life.

Underlined words in red identify a posture of walking, standing, and sitting. The reader noted a progression within the first stanza of a person getting more comfortable (walking, then standing, then sitting with the wicked)

Words underlined or circled in purple identify people who are opposed to God: "the wicked", "sinners", "scoffers."

Words circled in orange show a metaphorical contrast between the righteous and the wicked. The wicked are like a tree planted by streams of water, while the wicked are like dried leaves blown away in the wind.

Boxes put around key phrases. These verses describe how the righteous person knows God through his law, and is also known by God.

Two paths

Know God

Picture of a righteous person

Outcome for wicked people

Known by God



PREPARE:

Use these pages
to study the psalm
in depth
throughout
the week.

Why do the nations rage

and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,

and the rulers take counsel together,

against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,

3 “Let us burst their bonds apart

and cast away their cords from us.”

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;

the Lord holds them in derision.

5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,

and terrify them in his fury, saying,

6 “As for me, I have set my King

on Zion, my holy hill.”

7 I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;

today I have begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

and the ends of the earth your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron

and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

be warned, O rulers of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear,

and rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son,

lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.



OBSERVE & SHARE



OBSERVE:

Refer to the example from Psalm 1 on pages 4-5.

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 2 out loud.

FOCUS: Divide the psalm into stanzas (paragraphs). Remember, there are no “correct” answers. Observe the logical progression of the psalm. Label each stanza. If you have a friend or community group participating in *theFormed.life*, compare your answers. As you observe the structure and flow of the psalm, what stands out to you?

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PRAY: Write your own prayer reflecting on some of the themes from the psalm. Consider formatting it as a poem!

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CONNECT WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 2 along with the following New Testament passages: **Luke 2:1-7; Luke 1:31-33; Luke 1:52**

FOCUS: What connections (compare/contrast, similar language or themes, etc.) can you identify between the psalm and the New Testament passages? How does the psalm point to Jesus?

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PRAY: Read through your prayers for the week. In what ways did God answer them? Write a prayer inviting him into the various events of your upcoming weekend.

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WORSHIP THROUGH HYMNS



READ: Read the lyrics of the Christmas hymn below.

ONLINE:

Go to *theFormed.life* to watch and listen to the hymn performed by our Christ Community worship leaders.

FOCUS: Joy To The World

Verse 1

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

Verse 2

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

PRAY: Write a prayer incorporating some of the themes of the hymn.

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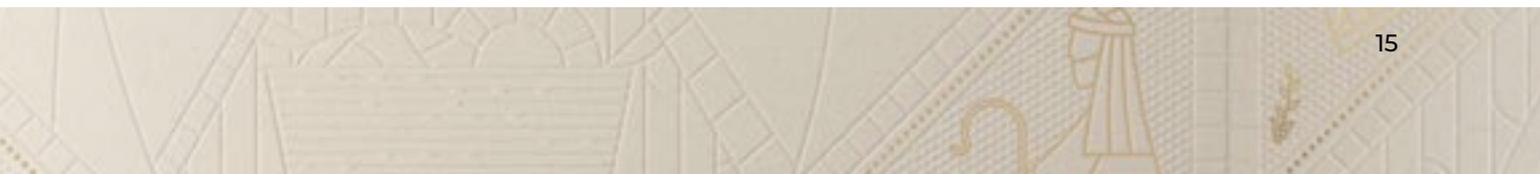
CCLI Song # 24016
George Frideric
Handel | Isaac Watts
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WEEK

1

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**PREPARE:**

Use these pages
to study the psalm
in depth
throughout
the week.

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- 2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!
- 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!
- 5 May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
- 7 In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- 8 May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- 9 May desert tribes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust!
- 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts!
- 11 May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!

12 For he delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.

13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

15 Long may he live;
may gold of Sheba be given to him!
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all the day!

16 May there be abundance of grain in the land;
on the tops of the mountains may it wave;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field!

17 May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun!
May people be blessed in him,
all nations call him blessed!

18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

19 Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!
Amen and Amen!

20 The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

OBSERVE & LISTEN: PSALM 72

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 72 out loud.

FOCUS: Use the psalm printed out for you on pages 16-17 and write on, mark up and interact with the printed psalm. Consider using different colored pens or markers for each repeated word or phrase. Make special note of any “king” language (words like king, kingdom, rule, reign, throne, etc.). What does this psalm teach us about God’s promised king?



OBSERVE:

Follow the prompts and see the sample on pages 4-5.

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PRAY: Talk to God about the words or phrases from the psalm that stick out to you. Ask him why he brought those to mind, and write a prayer in response.

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WEEK
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PSALM 72



OBSERVE & SHARE



OBSERVE:

Refer to the example from Psalm 1 on pages 4-5.

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 72 out loud.

FOCUS: Divide the psalm into stanzas (paragraphs). Remember, there are no “correct” answers. Observe the logical progression of the psalm. Label each stanza. If you have a friend or community group participating in *theFormed.life*, compare your answers. As you observe the structure and flow of the psalm, what stands out to you?

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PRAY: Write your own prayer reflecting on some of the themes from the psalm. Consider formatting it as a poem!

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CONNECT WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 72 along with the following New Testament passage: **Luke 1:52-53**

FOCUS: What connections (compare/contrast, similar language or themes, etc.) can you identify between the psalm and the New Testament passage? How does the psalm point to Jesus?

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PRAY: Read through your prayers for the week. In what ways did God answer them? Write a prayer inviting him into the various events of your upcoming weekend.

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WORSHIP THROUGH HYMNS



ONLINE:

Go to *theFormed.life* to listen to the hymn performed by our Christ Community worship leaders.

READ: Read the lyrics of the Christmas hymn below.

FOCUS: O Holy Night

Verse 1

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
 It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining
 Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Chorus 1

Fall on your knees
 O hear the angel voices
 O night divine
 O night when Christ was born
 O night O holy night
 O night divine

Verse 2

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
 With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
 So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
 Here came the wise men from Orient land
 The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
 In all our trials born to be our Friend

Chorus 2

He knows our need
 To our weakness is no stranger
 Behold your King
 Before Him lowly bend
 Behold your King
 Before Him lowly bend

Verse 3

Truly He taught us to love one another
 His law is love and His gospel is peace
 Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
 And in His name all oppression shall cease
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
 Let all within us praise His holy name

Chorus 3

Christ is the Lord
 O praise His name forever
 His power and glory
 Evermore proclaim
 His power and glory
 Evermore proclaim

PRAY: Write a prayer incorporating some of the themes of the hymn.

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 | John Sullivan Dwight |
 Placide Cappeau
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WEEK
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 PSALM 72

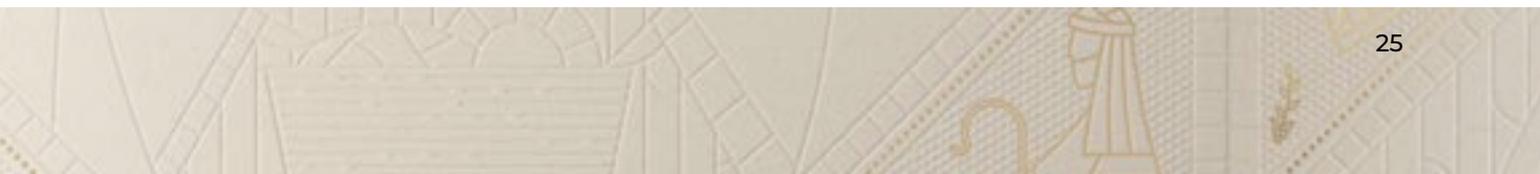


WEEK

2

PSALM 72

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**PREPARE:**

Use these pages
to study the psalm
in depth
throughout
the week.

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

13 As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

14 For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;

16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from
everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,

18 to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

20 Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,
obeying the voice of his word!

21 Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers, who do his will!

22 Bless the Lord, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

WEEK

3

PSALM 103



OBSERVE & SHARE



OBSERVE:

Refer to the example from Psalm 1 on pages 4-5.

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 103 out loud.

FOCUS: Divide the psalm into stanzas (paragraphs). Remember, there are no “correct” answers. Observe the logical progression of the psalm. Label each stanza. If you have a friend or community group participating in *theFormed.life*, compare your answers. As you observe the structure and flow of the psalm, what stands out to you?

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PRAY: Write your own prayer reflecting on some of the themes from the psalm. Consider formatting it as a poem!

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CONNECT WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 103 along with the following New Testament passage: **Luke 1:68-79**

FOCUS: What connections (compare/contrast, similar language or themes, etc.) can you identify between the psalm and the New Testament passage? How does the psalm point to Jesus?

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PRAY: Read through your prayers for the week. In what ways did God answer them? Write a prayer inviting him into the various events of your upcoming weekend.

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WORSHIP THROUGH HYMNS



ONLINE:

Go to *theFormed.life* to listen to the hymn performed by our Christ Community worship leaders.

READ: Read the lyrics of the Christmas hymn below.

FOCUS: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Verse 2

Still thro' the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

Verse 3

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong

And man at war with man hears not
The love song which they bring
O hush the noise ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing

Verse 4

And ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing

Verse 5

For lo the days are hastening on
By prophet bards foretold
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

PRAY: Write a prayer incorporating some of the themes of the hymn.

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Richard Storrs Willis
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WEEK
3
PSALM 103



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing.

WEEK

3

PSALM 103



**PREPARE:**

Use these pages
to study the psalm
in depth
throughout
the week.

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- 4 In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- 6 But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- 8 "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"
- 9 Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
- 10 On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.
- 11 Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
- 12 Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- 13 they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
16 For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
17 I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
18 they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
19 But you, O Lord, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
20 Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!
21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns
of the wild oxen!
22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation
I will praise you:
23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you
offspring of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.
25 From you comes my praise in the
great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those
who fear him.
26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
28 For kingship belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.
29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
30 Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming
generation;
31 they shall come and proclaim his
righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

CONNECT WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 22 along with the following New Testament passage: **Luke 2:29-32**

FOCUS: What connections (compare/contrast, similar language or themes, etc.) can you identify between the psalm and the New Testament passage? How does the psalm point to Jesus?

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PRAY: Read through your prayers for the week. In what ways did God answer them? Write a prayer inviting him into the various events of your upcoming weekend.

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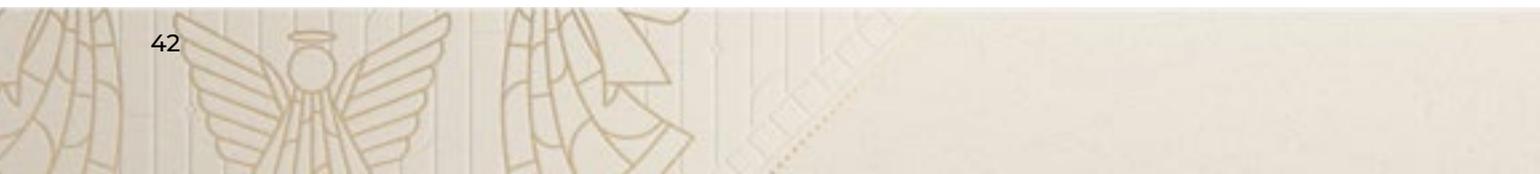
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WORSHIP THROUGH HYMNS



READ: Read the lyrics of the Christmas hymn below.

ONLINE:

Go to *theFormed.life* to watch and listen to the hymn performed by our Christ Community worship leaders.

FOCUS: O Come O Come Emmanuel

Verse 1

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Verse 2

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight

Verse 3

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go

Verse 4

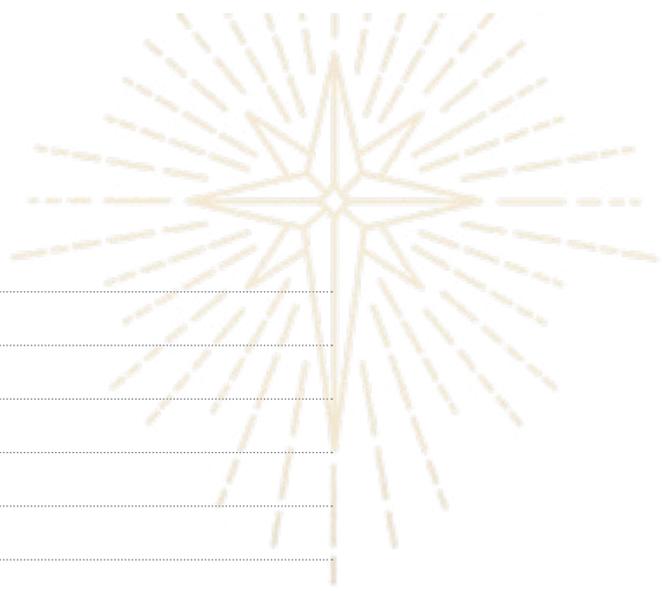
O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

PRAY: Write a prayer incorporating some of the themes of the hymn.

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CCLI Song # 24016
George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts
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WEEK
4
PSALM 22

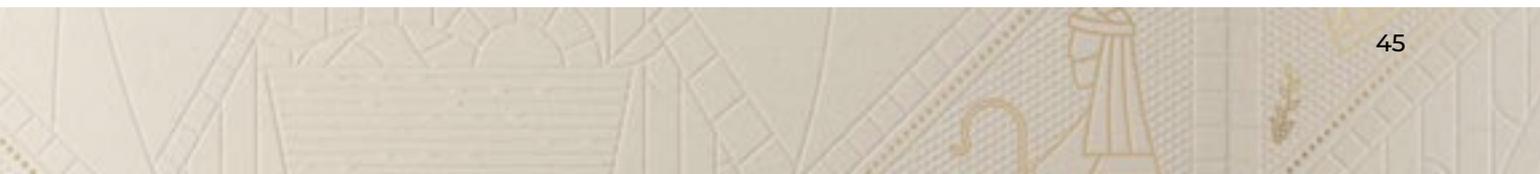


Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines for tracing and writing.

WEEK

4

PSALM 22



**PREPARE:**

Use these pages
to study the psalm
in depth
throughout
the week.

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

2 Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his hosts!

3 Praise him, sun and moon,

praise him, all you shining stars!

4 Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord!

For he commanded and they were created.

6 And he established them forever and ever;

he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,

you great sea creatures and all deeps,

8 fire and hail, snow and mist,

stormy wind fulfilling his word!

9 Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

10 Beasts and all livestock,

creeping things and flying birds!

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

12 Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him.

Praise the Lord!

WEEK

5

PSALM 148

OBSERVE & LISTEN: PSALM 148

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 148 out loud.

FOCUS: Use the psalm printed out for you on pages 46-47 and write on, mark up and interact with the printed psalm. Consider using different colored pens or markers for each repeated word or phrase. Make special note of any “king” language (words like king, kingdom, rule, reign, throne, etc.). What does this psalm teach us about God's promised king?



OBSERVE:

Follow the prompts and see the sample on pages 4-5.

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PRAY: Talk to God about the words or phrases from the psalm that stick out to you. Ask him why he brought those to mind, and write a prayer in response.

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WEEK
5
PSALM 148





OBSERVE & SHARE



OBSERVE:

Refer to the example from Psalm 1 on pages 4-5.

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 148 out loud.

FOCUS: Divide the psalm into stanzas (paragraphs). Remember, there are no “correct” answers. Observe the logical progression of the psalm. Label each stanza. If you have a friend or community group participating in *theFormed.life*, compare your answers. As you observe the structure and flow of the psalm, what stands out to you?

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PRAY: Write your own prayer reflecting on some of the themes from the psalm. Consider formatting it as a poem!

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CONNECT WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT

READ: Listen to or read Psalm 148 along with the following New Testament passages: **Luke 1:68-69; Luke 2:13-14**

FOCUS: What connections (compare/contrast, similar language or themes, etc.) can you identify between the psalm and the New Testament passage? How does the psalm point to Jesus?

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PRAY: Read through your prayers for the week. In what ways did God answer them? Write a prayer inviting him into the various events of your upcoming weekend.

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WORSHIP THROUGH HYMNS



READ: Read the lyrics of the Christmas hymn below.

ONLINE:

Go to *theFormed.life* to listen to the hymn performed by our Christ Community worship leaders.

FOCUS: Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Verse 1

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 2

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 4

Come Desire of nations come
Fix in us Thy humble home
Rise the woman's conqu'ring seed
Bruise in us the serpent's head
Adam's likeness now efface
Stamp Thine image in its place
Second Adam from above
Reinstate us in Thy love
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

PRAY: Write a prayer incorporating some of the themes of the hymn.

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CCLI Song # 31982
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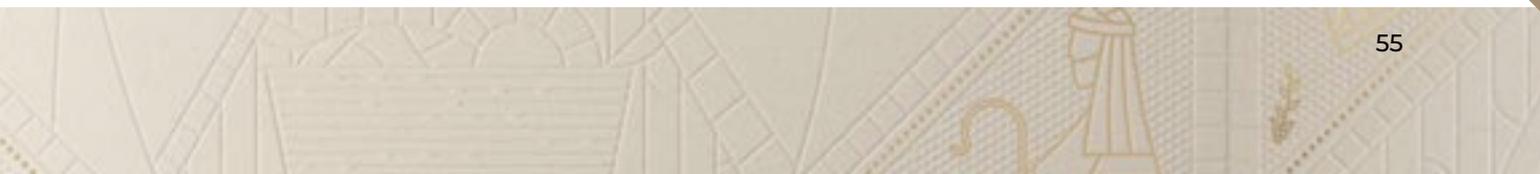


Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing on a white background.

WEEK

5

PSALM 148



Psalm 2

Why the big noise, nations?
Why the mean plots, peoples?
Earth-leaders push for position,
Demagogues and delegates meet for summit talks,
The God-deniers, the Messiah-defiers:
“Let’s get free of God!
Cast loose from Messiah!”
Heaven-throned God breaks out laughing.
At first he’s amused at their presumption;
Then he gets good and angry.
Furiously, he shuts them up:
“Don’t you know there’s a King in Zion?
A coronation banquet
Is spread for him on the holy summit.”
Let me tell you what God said next.
He said, “You’re my son,
And today is your birthday.
What do you want? Name it:
Nations as a present? continents as a prize?
You can command them all to dance for you,
Or throw them out with tomorrow’s trash.”
So, rebel-kings, use your heads;
Upstart-judges, learn your lesson:
Worship God in adoring embrace,
Celebrate in trembling awe. Kiss Messiah!
Your very lives are in danger, you know;
His anger is about to explode,
But if you make a run for God—you won’t regret it!

The Message



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THIS DEVOTIONAL BELONGS TO:

