

Foundations Devotional

• FOR THE WEEK OF NOV 29 - DEC 5 •

MONDAY // PSALM 51

David wrote Psalm 51 after the prophet Nathan confronted him about his sins with Bathsheba and toward Uriah (2 Sam. 11-12). This psalm records David's cry to God for forgiveness, including his confession of sin, his plea for God's cleansing, his acknowledgment of God's holiness, and his request that God restore joy to David's life and blessing to Jerusalem. This psalm is an example for us of genuine sorrow over sin and the kind of repentant heart God desires. David's life reminds us that God is ready and willing to forgive repentant sinners completely and restore them to fellowship with Him. What matters to God is a truly "broken and humbled heart" (51:17). This attitude toward sin ushers in God's grace and forgiveness.

TUESDAY // 2 SAMUEL 24; PSALM 24

The last chapter of 2 Samuel continues the theme of God's blessing on David's life and the nation of Israel because of His faithfulness to His covenant. However, the events in this chapter are another example of God temporarily removing His blessing because of sin. The military census David took angered God because it happened at a time when the nation of Israel was at peace, which revealed David's interest in his own power and military success over his trust in the Lord. God responded to David's sin by punishing all of Israel, which opened David's eyes to the error of his ways and led to his confession of sin and repentance. Throughout David's life, we notice a cycle in his relationship with God that makes it look a lot like ours. David moved from a place of worship to sin, then to repentance, then back to worship. Second Samuel ends with David's example of costly sacrifice as a display of his worship toward God. This theme is the heart of Psalm 24, a psalm that acknowledges the power of God—the Author and Finisher of everything.

WEDNESDAY // PSALM 1; 19

From the beginning of time, God has been making Himself known. The two primary ways He reveals Himself are through creation and Scripture, both of which show God's power and glory. They come up repeatedly in the psalms, which the people of God used and still use to worship Him. Psalm 1 sets the course for the book by presenting an important teaching for life in general: Every person must choose the path he or she will follow—either the path of God or the path of self. One leads to abundant life, the other to destruction. The obvious correct choice is to choose the path of God, which means turning from sin and filling your life with Him and His Word. Psalm 19 echoes the benefit of choosing the right path and responding positively to God's revelation of Himself in creation and His Word. God's ultimate revelation of Himself, which all of Scripture points to, came in Jesus Christ, our Rock and our Redeemer (19:4). When we choose to live in obedience to God and His Word, we are choosing abundant life with Christ.

THURSDAY // PSALM 103; 119:1-48

In Psalm 103, David praised God because of all the good things He had done, outlining the benefits we receive from Him through His unmerited grace. David noted that the faithful love of God is great and incomparable. God is the ultimate Father in His compassion to His children, and for this He is worthy of our never-ending praise. Psalm 119 picks up some of the same themes from yesterday's readings in Psalms 1 and 19, as the psalmist praised God for His Word and the impact it had on his life. The God who forgives our sins, redeems our lives, and satisfies our desires (103:1-5) is the same God who gives us access into the very heart of who He is through His Word. Because God's Word is such a gift, He expects it to be taken seriously, which means we obey God's laws and look to His Word as the guide for our lives. The power, inspiration, and truth of God's Word demand the careful study and dedicated application of it, the end result of which is unspeakable joy (119:23-24).

FRIDAY // PSALM 119:49-128

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm and the longest chapter of the Bible, and almost every verse describes an aspect of God's Word. The verses from today's reading teach us many truths about God and how we are to relate to Him. For example, God's faithful love comes to those who trust Him and brings hope to the afflicted. Reading and studying God's Word is also how people come to know God more deeply. God's Word is certain and eternal, and all of Scripture reveals the character and glory of God. As we can see from this psalm, God expects His people to know, obey, and delight in His Word. Doing so reveals our faith in and love for Him, and it keeps us on the path toward holiness—a pursuit that will take a lifetime.

WEEKEND // FINISH UP ANY YOU DIDN'T DO