

# THE INSPIRATION FOR WORSHIP

Leader pages on pp. 140-143

**THE POINT:**  
GOD'S GOODNESS AND  
LOVE LEAD US TO  
WORSHIP HIM.

## PSALM 25:4-15

<sup>4</sup> Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; I wait for you all day long.

<sup>6</sup> Remember, LORD, your compassion and your faithful love, for they have existed from antiquity.

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my acts of rebellion; in keeping with your faithful love, remember me because of your goodness, LORD.

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<sup>8</sup> The LORD is good and upright; therefore he shows sinners the way.

<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

<sup>10</sup> **All the LORD's ways show faithful love and truth to those who keep his covenant and decrees.**

<sup>11</sup> LORD, for the sake of your name, forgive my iniquity, for it is immense.

.....  
<sup>12</sup> Who is this person who fears the LORD? He will show him the way he should choose.

<sup>13</sup> He will live a good life, and his descendants will inherit the land.

<sup>14</sup> The secret counsel of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he reveals his covenant to them.

<sup>15</sup> My eyes are always on the LORD, for he will pull my feet out of the net.

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### MEMORY VERSE

### KEYWORDS

**From antiquity (v. 6)**—"From of old." This possibly refers to God's revelation in the Mosaic covenant or it could mean "from everlasting," stressing God's eternal existence.

**Acts of Rebellion (v. 7)**—That is, deliberate offenses, much more serious sins than those of David's youth. These

adult sins of aggression needed forgiveness.

**For (v. 12)**—This fear derives from the Lord's faithful love. Godly fear, or the fear of the Lord, causes one to heed His instruction. David referred to it again in verse 14.

# HOW DOES GOD INSPIRE GRATEFUL WORSHIP?

We've all seen it a thousand times watching football games. A player makes a phenomenal play and returns to the sideline. He's engulfed by his teammates and coaches. As the celebration winds down, the player recognizes a television camera is on him and almost every time, he looks at the camera and says, "Hi, Mom!"

In the moment when the world is watching, mom is the one who gets the greeting. Why? It's natural to respond to the nurturing we get from our mothers.

But even our mothers don't care for us like God does. When we remember God's compassion and faithfulness that goes back to the beginning of time, we want to let the world know about His love. And when everyone is looking at us, we want to be seen worshipping.

## God Is Full of Compassion //

### Psalm 25:4-7

As we saw in the book of Isaiah in our last session, worship begins by seeing and knowing God. Our God has faithfully revealed Himself so that our worship is possible. Once we recognize His worthiness, we know we ought to worship Him.

Sometimes, however, that isn't enough to make us want to worship.

Pagans worship a created god presented in some form and given certain attributes that compel the follower to worship in hopes of appeasing a god they don't know and who can't care for them. For them, worship is not something done because of desire. Worship is a duty, a safety net to somehow protect them from the anger of an unseen deity. Such worship leaves the worshiper empty and unaffected by the ritual, no matter how elaborate.

Our heavenly Father offers more.

In Psalm 25:4, the psalmist prayed for God to reveal more than Himself, but to also reveal His ways, His paths. We might have prayed it this way: "God, I not only want to know who You are, I want to know how you work."

If that is where God stopped, He would still be worthy of our praise, but He goes even farther! God delights in revealing not only who He is and how He works, but He also allows us to see why He has done what He has done. God created and redeemed us because He loves us.



## THE POINT: GOD'S GOODNESS AND LOVE LEAD US TO WORSHIP HIM.

We could be tempted to think God's love for us has something to do with us, our abilities, our talents, and our service. Perhaps our devotion to God and the ways we worship Him somehow motivate the Father to show us His goodness and love. If that were the truth, then our worship would be just like false religions who present a god that responds to worship with good gifts. The truth is just the opposite.

God—out of His nature and goodness—has chosen to love us first. Not because of who we are, but because of who He is. That love made a way to atone for our sin; not because of what we've done, but because of what He's done. His goodness draws us closer to Him in worship. Not because of our piety, but because of His affection.

Because of sin, we are guilty, and we know it. When God reveals Himself, we see His perfection and know without anyone telling us that we don't deserve His love. We would never initiate being in the presence of this God we have failed. We shrink back hoping He doesn't find us. Isn't that what Adam and Eve did after they had disobeyed God (Gen. 3)?

Because of God's love, He pursued us in our guilty condition. First John 4:19 says, "We love because he first loved us." He didn't wait until we got our act together; He loved us first. Because of that love, we can be forgiven. We don't have to shrink back in our shame. Hebrews 10:19-22 tells us we can enter boldly and draw near to worship the God who loves us!

Now we can pray like this: "God, You have shown me who You are. You even revealed ways that You work. Your goodness and love have been with me all my life. Because You loved me, You atoned for my sin through Jesus. I worship You—the One who is, who loves, and forgives."

We're not guilty anymore; we don't have to hide. We are moved to worship.

### IN WHAT WAYS DOES GOD MAKE HIS WAYS KNOWN TO US?

## God Has Overflowing Care // Psalm 25:8-11

In this section of the psalm, we see a unique characteristic of God that stirs us in our worship: God is good. Because of His goodness, He desires to direct us in our lives. If God only knew the way but didn't care if we knew the path or not, we might worship Him out of fear or in hopes of appeasing His anger. But He loves; not because we are lovable, but because He is loving. We experience His goodness; not because we are worthy of it, but because He is good.



### DIGGING DEEPER TO REMEMBER, NOT TO REMEMBER

God is omniscient. He knows everything past, present, and future. So when we think of God remembering, it does not mean He has forgotten. When Scripture speaks of God remembering or not remembering it means He acts according to the promises of His covenant with His people. The Lord heard the cries of Israel, remembered His covenant and acted on their behalf (Ex. 2:24-25). God remembered Noah and stopped the flood (Gen. 8:1). David's plea in Psalm 25:6-7 was in acknowledgment of God's character to be faithful to His covenant with His people. We must do the same. We may be tempted to give up hope that the Lord will remember His promises to us. We must stand firm knowing that it may seem like God is slow to act, but He is the promise keeper and is always on time (2 Pet. 3:8-9).

**In what area of your life will you begin to pray with confidence knowing God will never forget his promises to you?**



Such understanding prompts a response of worship from us.

Though available to all, many fail to accept the gift because there is only one attitude that enables us to receive His goodness. Notice the pattern in the text:

- He shows sinners the way (v. 8).
- He leads the humble (v. 9).
- He shows faithful love and truth to those who keep His covenant and decrees (v. 10).

The heart that is proud and self-focused, that fails to understand the need for His grace and forgiveness, will never come to know this gift. One could understand all there is to know about God, but without acknowledging our desperate need for Him, he or she would continue in self-sufficiency.

The appropriate “RSVP” to God’s invitation starts with understanding this: We are sinners. The only way we can come is in humility. Because He is over everything, we pursue obedience. Those who respond like this are the ones who will know the goodness of God.

At this point in verse 11, David gave us the answer to a very important question: Why does God choose to do this? Our human nature could assume we deserve this affection from our Maker, and that God’s plan to redeem fallen humanity reflects our intrinsic value. Nothing could be further from the truth. The glory of this miraculous transaction belongs only one place—with God

Himself. And forgiveness reflects who God is, not the worthiness of the ones forgiven.

Verse 11 removes every other assumption. For the sake of His own name, God forgives. And the immensity of my guilt only brings even more glory to His name.

Worship begins with God’s revelation of Himself. If that was all we had, we would still be compelled to worship. He is God and He is good. Then forgiveness takes us to a new place. We are overwhelmed at who He is and what He has done for us. When we focus on that, we are inspired to worship.

## God Faithfully Keeps His Covenant // Psalm 25:12-15

At this point in our passage, we see a shift in the subject from God—who shows compassion through His forgiveness and goodness—to the person who is wise enough to respond in fear of the Lord. In a sense it goes from, “This is who God is,” to the application of, “This is how a wise person responds to God.”

In Psalm 25, David was giving us formational doctrine, first about the nature and character of our God, and then about the ways we respond to Him in worship. This is “basic training” for the follower of God, and it’s so vital, David embedded a tool to help us remember it.

- We don’t just acknowledge who God is, we worship Him.
- We don’t just worship Him; we implore Him to forgive us.
- We don’t just implore Him to forgive us; we ask Him for guidance and understanding.

It becomes clear: God doesn’t just deliver us from our sin, He engages with us by giving us His guidance and direction as we live for Him. We worship Him for what He has done, but we also worship Him for what He is doing now! He is helping us.

The application isn’t just for them; it’s for us too. Every day we are faced with many decisions and

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Think about the most amazing gift you've ever been given. What was it about the gift that made it amazing? Did it reflect a deep love for you? Or a total sense of knowing you and your needs? Was it the timing of it that made it so special, or the sacrifice required of the giver?

God has given us the greatest gift of all—Himself. He gave this gift for one reason—His glory. We didn't earn it and certainly didn't deserve it.

The gift was given by the Giver of all good gifts. James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

When we think about His love, we worship. When we remember His forgiveness, we worship. And when we consider the ways God directs our lives, we worship.

### WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES OR DECISIONS HAVE GROWN YOUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD?

### DID YOU KNOW?

One reason the Psalms are so treasured is that they express the full range of human emotions before God. The Psalms are a collection of poetry. They differ from the rest of Scripture because there is no plot like in the narrative books of the Bible. Many Psalms address God directly. Most of the Psalms reveal the uncertainties and fears, victories and adversities, joys and hopes of God's people. The Psalms consists of:

- Hymns of praise
- Prayers for help
- Poems of trust
- Songs of thanksgiving
- Instructional psalms
- Imprecatory psalms

The Psalms give believers the ability to express to God the deep issues of the heart when we may not be able to articulate those feelings.

**Biblical Truth:** The Psalms are the inspired responses of human hearts to God's revealing himself throughout biblical history.

### How do the Psalms reflect your own experience with God?

## LIVE IT

### How has God's compassion drawn us to worship Him?

When we think about His love, we worship. When we remember His forgiveness, we worship. And when we consider the ways God directs our lives, we worship.

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- **The Starting Place.** We are inspired to worship when we consider the love and forgiveness God has shown us in Christ. What are some of the ways God inspired your worship this week? Make a list and thank Him for each one.
- **The Growing Place.** We also respond in worship to His leadership in our lives as He lovingly guides and directs our paths. What ways has God led you in life? How did He lead you this past week? How did you respond to His leadership? Sketch out a map of where He has led you.
- **The Sowing Place.** Pray and ask the Lord to help you worship Him by showing others His love and compassion. Ask Him to bring people to mind who need to see the love and forgiveness offered by God through your life of faithful worship.



# DAILY READINGS

## 1. GOD'S COMPASSIONATE HEART // PSALM 24:4-7; ISAIAH 49:13

In our first session we learn who God is, His love, our trust, and why He is deserving of our worship. We can worship God also for His compassion for us. In this lesson, we experience David in the Psalms expressing his dependence on God, seeking God's guidance in His truth and being willing to learn. David asks God to remember His compassion. Compassion motivates others to go out of their way to relieve pain encompassing the sensitive awareness of another's needs, caring deeply for one another making the world better. Isaiah 49:13 says "shout for joy, you heavens! Earth, rejoice! Mountains break into joyful shouts! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones".

**Welcome God through your worship to experience His compassion.**

## 2. GOD'S EVERLASTING GOODNESS // PSALM 25:8-11; ROMANS 8:28

You may often hear a phrase or say yourself "The Lord is good." While true, many times phrases become practice as the thing to say without considering the meaning behind them. Our lesson discusses God's goodness as described in Psalm 25:8, "The LORD is good and upright; therefore he shows sinners the way." When we ponder and dwell in the goodness of God we find our worship. However, dwelling on God's goodness can be hard when we are seasons of difficulty. Romans 8:28 reminds us that all things work together for our good. God has an everlasting supply of care, goodness, and forgiving for you.

**Psalm 25 explains for those who keep his decrees the Lord's ways show faithful love and truth. That's worthy of our praise!**

## 3. OUR REVERENCE, HIS PROMISE // PSALMS 25:12-14; PROVERBS 1:7

Proverbs 1:7 instructs, "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and

discipline." Being afraid of our Lord isn't the same fear we may experience of something, someone, or a situation that may cause inaction or poor decisions. The fear of our Lord described in Psalms 25:12, "Who is the person who fears the LORD? He will show him the way he should choose," is a choice we may make to follow His will in our decisions, actions, and thoughts, going against our sinful ways. When we submit our ways to God, He is faithful to keep His covenant.

**Psalms 25:12-14 explains that the one who fears God will live a good life, His descendants will inherit the land, and the covenant is revealed to those who fear Him.**

## 4. FIX OUR FOCUS // PSALM 25:15

Recently during a plane ride, we had to stay in the air for a while to allow other planes to clear the runway before we landed. It was a clear, bright sunny day as we hovered over the land enough to see the highway's twist and turns and the many different paths that lead to various destinations. It made me wonder of God's clear view of the paths of our lives. We have limited perspective when we don't include God in our worship. When we fix our gaze on who's in control of the entire pathway of our lives, we can rest assured that we are in good hands.

**Psalm 25:15 tells us, "my eyes are always on the LORD, for he will pull my feet out of the net."**

## 5. SEEK TRUTH // PSALM 25:4-5; JEREMIAH 29:13

In Psalm 25:4-5 we find David asking God, "make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me for you are the God of my salvation. I will wait for you all day long." David is practicing a patient, trusting heart, that is open and willing to allow God's will to work in his life. Are you waiting for God's answers, for His ways, for God to show you His truth? When we acknowledge our need for God in our worship and practice trust while waiting, we confirm our dependence on Him. In His time God will respond with His will.

**Jeremiah 29:13 reminds us, "You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart."**