



**FBC Reading Plan**  
October 2019

## Week 4: Psalms of Lament

Starting Date October 28th

**Why a Reading Plan:** God speaks to people through His Word. It is what He uses to transform our lives by orienting our minds toward His truth and aligning our heart toward what He loves. The aim of this reading plan is not to merely check a box off a list, but to encourage our church body to spend time hearing from God. Here at FBC we want to provide you with the tools to grow. This reading plan aligns with the Sunday morning message and Life Group times.

**How to use this booklet:** Each week you will start with the passage that the sermon that coming Sunday will be based on. Each week will have a theme and each reading will compliment that theme. The passages are relatively short to encourage you to spend more time thinking through a passage and writing down a few thoughts. We have provided at least one question to give you something to think through. However, we do encourage the H.E.A.R. method. Because the passages are shorter, the reading is the **highlight**. We encourage you to then write a short **explanation** of what the passage is saying and the big idea the author is trying to communicate. We think **application** is a crucial part of a transformation process. In this section, you are writing down how you can apply the truth from this passage to your life. Application should always be done in a spirit of prayer, as you are asking God to reveal to you how it applies. Finally, it is not enough to settle for knowing some truth or how it might apply to your life without a specific response. So we encourage you to write out a **response**. This can be a response to God or a specific action you will take as a result of your time with the Lord.

**Memory Verse:** This year, we want to challenge you to memorize a different passage of Scripture each month. That memory verse is provided on the next page in the ESV, NIV, and NLT versions.

### Application:

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Can a Christian pray this psalm and still be faithful to the command to love and pray for one's enemies (Matt. 5:44)? Why or why not?

### Response:

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Have you given anyone reason to pray (or be tempted to pray) something like this against you? What can you do to reconcile that relationship?

## Week 4: Psalms of Lament

Starting Date October 28th

**Day 5** Highlight: Psalm 109

### Explanation:

Vv. 6-19 seem to be a curse that the psalmist speaks over the “wicked mouths opened” against him (v. 2), with vv. 16-18 describing some of his enemies’ evil actions. What parts of this psalm surprise you?

What does this psalm teach us about praying for justice to be done to wrongdoers?

8 And when he [the Lamb] had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

**Revelation 5:8-10 (ESV)**

8 And when he [the Lamb] had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

**Revelation 5:8-10 (NIV)**

8 And when he [the Lamb] took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. 9 And they sang a new song with these words: “You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.”

**Revelation 5:8-10 (NLT)**

**Week 1: To All Nations**  
Starting Date October 7th

**Day 1** Highlight: Mathew 24:3-14

**Explanation:**

What two questions were the disciples asking Jesus in verse 3?

What were some of the signs of Jesus' second coming according to His answer?

What is the significance of verse 14 in Jesus' answer?

**Week 4: Psalms of Lament**  
Starting Date October 28th

**Application:**

How does this psalm teach you to go through suffering?

**Response:**

**Week 4: Psalms of Lament**  
Starting Date October 28th

**Day 4** Highlight: Psalm 80

**Explanation:**

Vv. 8-13 compare Israel to a vine that God carefully planted but now appears to have abandoned. How does the psalmist use this imagery in his petition in vv. 14-18?

Who does the psalmist blame for Israel's misfortune? Does such an accusation surprise you? Why or why not?

Who is responsible for restoring Israel (v. 3, 7, 19) and turning it back to God (v. 18)? How does that fit with your answer to the previous question ?

**Week 1: To All Nations**  
Starting Date October 7th

**Application:**

What does this passage communicate about God's heart?

**Response:**

How is the Holy Spirit using this passage to challenge you in your attitude toward unreached people groups?

**Week 1: To All Nations**  
Starting Date October 7th

**Day 2** Highlight: Genesis 11:1-9

**Explanation:**

Ancient Near Eastern literature often uses a story from a human perspective to teach something to the reader. This is true of the Biblical narrative in Genesis. It is a story that happened, but is being told from a human perspective to make a point about the nature of God. We know from the text that God confuses the languages of the people and dispersed them over the earth. What reason does the story give for God doing such a thing?

How is God's intervention an act of mercy to the people rather than an act to suppress human beings because He somehow feels threatened by them?

**Week 4: Psalms of Lament**  
Starting Date October 28th

**Application:**

What sins do you need to confess to God? If confession requires mourning for our wrongdoing (vv. 3-8), does your sorrow match the gravity of your sin?

**Response:**

What hope does the psalmist have despite his sin? Is that hope yours as well?

**Week 4: Psalms of Lament**  
Starting Date October 28th

**Day 3** Highlight: Psalm 38

**Explanation:**

Why does the psalmist go about mourning all day (v. 6)?

This is a psalm of confession, a lament over the psalmist's sin (v. 18).  
How does this psalm teach us to confess our sins?

**Week 1: To All Nations**  
Starting Date October 7th

**Application:**

How do you see redemption at work with God's promise that the Gospel will be preached to every ethnic group?

**Response:**

**Week 1: To All Nations**  
Starting Date October 7th

**Day 3** Highlight: Daniel 3

**Explanation:**

In what ways is the decree from Nebuchadnezzar a slap in the face to God's will concerning every people group?

In what way(s) does Nebuchadnezzar's response to the miracle of the fiery furnace surprise you?

In what way is verses 28-29 critical to the what the author is intending to communicate to the reader?

**Week 4: Psalms of Lament**  
Starting Date October 28th

**Application:**

The psalmist is rather frank with God and honestly brings his complaint to God in prayer. Is this a common way that you interact with God? Why or why not?

**Response:**

In what way(s) do you feel forgotten by God? How does the gospel give you joy in the midst of that sorrow?



**Week 4: Psalms of Lament**  
Starting Date October 28th

**Day 2** Highlight: Psalm 13

**Explanation:**

The Psalms not only teach us about God but show us how to interact with God. Does the psalmist's prayer surprise you in any way regarding how we should talk to God?

How can the psalmist have sorrow in his heart all day and yet rejoice in God's salvation?

**Week 1: To All Nations**  
Starting Date October 7th

**Application:**

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**Response:**

John Piper has famously said, "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Mission's exists because worship doesn't!" God designed human beings to worship Him alone. How is this truth reflected in your interactions with other people, especially those who might be considered foreigners?

**Week 1: To All Nations**  
Starting Date October 7th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Revelation 5:1-14

**Explanation:**

How would you describe this scene in heaven in just a sentence or two?

How does the response of the four living creatures reflect God's heart for every people group?

**Week 4: Psalms of Lament**  
Starting Date October 28th

**Application:**

The blessing of God's salvation has ultimately come to us through Jesus Christ. And yet, we are faced with many foes who tempt to us to doubt God's goodness and love for us in Christ. What "foes" are rising up against you and tempting you to trust in something other than God?

**Response:**

**Week 4: Psalms of Lament**  
Starting Date October 28th

**Day 1** Highlight: Psalm 3

**Explanation:**

What is the psalmist's problem? What does he request God to do in light of his problem?

This week as we read several psalms of lament we will see that it is common for God's people to face difficulty and suffering. How can God be all powerful and yet still allow his people to suffer? How does the psalmist deal with his troubles in this psalm?

**Week 1: To All Nations**  
Starting Date October 7th

**Application:**

What kind of response is produced in you as you consider Christ's work on your behalf as one of those "ransomed people"?

**Response:**

How does this passage challenge your attitude toward missions?

**Week 1: To All Nations**  
Starting Date October 7th

**Day 5** Highlight: Revelation 7:9-17

**Explanation:**

How is this scene and what happened at the tower of Babel in Gen. 11 related to one another?

In what ways do God's mission and worship intersect in this passage?

**Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom**  
Starting Date October 21st

**Application:**

Unity among God's people is good and pleasant and is the context in which we receive the blessing of eternal life. Is there anyone with whom you need to be reconciled so that you can enjoy these blessings?

**Response:**

### Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom

Starting Date October 21st

**Day 5** Highlight: Psalm 133

#### **Explanation:**

V. 2 refers to the special oil used to anoint the priests, the tabernacle, the altar, and its utensils. It was very expensive, made people and objects holy, and could not be used for any other purposes (cf. Ex. 20:22-33). How does this illustrate the theme in v. 1?

Hermon refers to mountains on the northernmost border of Israel, over 100 miles away from Jerusalem. It's dew therefore cannot literally fall on Jerusalem. In addition, Hermon is known for having much precipitation, especially snow, while Jerusalem is in a very dry region of Israel. How does this illustrate what the psalmist is communicating?

### Week 1: To All Nations

Starting Date October 7th

#### **Application:**

If God clearly has a heart for all people groups to worship Him, what are some practical ways you can engage in reaching the unreached as an expression of that same heart?

#### **Response:**

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## Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful

Starting Date October 14th

**Day 1** Highlight: Luke 10:1-20

### **Explanation:**

How do Jesus' words in verse 2 impact the way you look at the world?

What is surprising to you about Jesus' instructions to His disciples in verses 2-3?

How were the disciples to handle rejection of the Gospel?

The disciples returned with a sense of joy. In what way did Jesus redirect their joy?

## Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom

Starting Date October 21st

### **Application:**

Is it better to be wicked or righteous? Why?

### **Response:**

What situations in your own life make you relate to how the psalmist feels in vv. 4-15?

**Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom**  
Starting Date October 21st

**Day 4** Highlight: Psalm 73

**Explanation:**

Why did the psalmist “almost stumble” and “nearly slip” (v. 2)?

Using parallelism, the psalmist shows that the arrogant are wicked and the wicked are arrogant. How does this interplay show up throughout the psalm?

**Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful**  
Starting Date October 14th

**Application:**

What can you learn about sharing the Gospel from this passage?

**Response:**

## Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful

Starting Date October 14th

**Day 2** Highlight: Matthew 13:1-23

### Explanation:

Based on this parable, the type of soil (of the heart) that the seed of the Gospel falls matters greatly. In what ways have you seen the seeds of the Gospel fall on the different “heart soils”?

What is the biggest indicator that the Gospel landed on good “heart soil”?

## Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom

Starting Date October 21st

### Application:

We are commanded to trust in the Lord (v. 3), delight in the Lord, 4), commit our ways to the Lord (v. 5), be still before the Lord (v. 7), and wait for the Lord (v. 7, 34). Do these verses describe your relationship with God? Why or why not?

### Response:



### Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom

Starting Date October 21st

**Day 3** Highlight: Psalm 37

#### **Explanation:**

Scripture's wisdom literature often contrasts the righteous and the wicked. What are the differences between the righteous and the wicked according to this psalm?

Describe the relationship that the righteous have with God and with other people.

### Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful

Starting Date October 14th

#### **Application:**

What does this parable tell us about God's work and our work in sharing the Gospel with others?

#### **Response:**

## Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful

Starting Date October 14th

**Day 3** Highlight: Luke 14:12-24

### **Explanation:**

In what ways do you think this parable would have been shocking to his audience (Luke 14:1)?

How does this passage reflect God's heart for people?

## Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom

Starting Date October 21st

### **Application:**

Which of these actions are present in your life? Which of these may be lacking?

### **Response:**

Use to the previous question to guide a prayer of thanksgiving and confession. Give thanks for the Holy Spirit creating obedience in your life. Confess ways in which you fail to live in this way.

**Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom**  
Starting Date October 21st

**Day 2** Highlight: Psalm 15

**Explanation:**

Living in God's tent and on his holy hill refer to entering God's presence. What is required to come into God's presence? Can anyone enter his presence?

**Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful**  
Starting Date October 14th

**Application:**

What does this passage teach about evangelism?

**Response:**

## Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful

Starting Date October 14th

**Day 4** Highlight: Luke 14:25-33

### **Explanation:**

The idea behind the particular word used for “hate” in this passage means “to love less”. Knowing this, what is Jesus saying about the high cost of discipleship?

## Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom

Starting Date October 21st

### **Application:**

This psalm declares that those who delight in God’s ways are blessed or even “happy.” Have you been delighting in following God recently? Why or why not?

**Response:**

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**Week 3: Psalms of Wisdom**  
Starting Date October 21st

**Day 1** Highlight: Psalm 1

**Explanation:**

What is the difference between the righteous and the wicked?

This psalm promises blessing not for obedience to God's law but for delighting in his law. What is the difference between those two ways of treating God's law?

This psalm does not command anything. Rather, it simply states how things are: the righteous are blessed and stable but the wicked are not. How is this a convincing view of reality?

**Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful**  
Starting Date October 14th

**Application:**

In what ways is verse 33 difficult for you to hear?

**Response:**

What are some "costs" have you experienced because you decided to follow Jesus?

## Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful

Starting Date October 14th

**Day 5** Highlight: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

### **Explanation:**

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Why is it that Paul considers his ministry an act of God's mercy?

This treasure that Paul is speaking of is "the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ" or as he said earlier, "the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." A jar of clay is a reference to a common vessel. What is Paul teaching when he says we have this treasure in jars of clay?

## Week 2: The Harvest is Plentiful

Starting Date October 14th

### **Application:**

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To experience true life and bring life to others, it requires us to die to ourselves. In what ways is this helpful when you consider serving Christ in every aspect of your life?

### **Response:**

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What does verse 15 teach you about the reason God placed His treasure in you?