

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Forgiveness Is Real
Psalms 51:1-13, 17

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #...). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Bible Study Leader:

Worship Time Leader:

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Forgiveness Is Real – 25-52-01-en

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Music Sources:

Yes, Lord, Yes, *The Worship Hymnal* # 445; CCLI #12224

If My People Will Pray, *The Worship Hymnal* # 430; CCLI # 13821

Be Still and Know, *The Worship Hymnal* #457; CCLI # 583265

Bow the Knee, *The Worship Hymnal* # 505; CCLI # 2701725

1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

Forgiveness Is Real

Focal Text

Psalm 51:1-13, 17

Background Text

Psalm 51

Main Idea

We all sin and need God's forgiveness.

Questions to Explore

How do we avoid categorizing sin into "big" sins and "little" sins?

What are ways we use to hide our sin from ourselves?

How do we understand how our sin impacts others and is a grief to God?

How do we accept forgiveness once we have confessed our sin?

How important is it to make restitution for our sin?

Teaching Aim

The lesson should lead participants to acknowledge sin and to seek forgiveness from God.

Gathering together:

Yes, Lord, Yes, *The Worship Hymnal* # 445; CCLI #12224

If My People Will Pray, *The Worship Hymnal* # 430; CCLI # 13821

First thoughts:

FORGIVENESS

Corrie Ten Boom in the book, **Reflections of God's Glory** (page 69), wrote, "In Africa a man came to a meeting with bandaged hands. I asked him how he had been injured. He said, "My neighbor's straw roof was on fire; I helped him to put it out and that's how my hands were burned. "Later I heard the whole story. The neighbor hated him and

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had set his roof on fire while his wife and children were asleep in the hut. They were in great danger. Fortunately, he was able to put out the fire in his house on time. But sparks flew over to the roof of the man who had set the house on fire and his house started to burn. There was no hate in the heart of this Christian; there was love for his enemy and he did everything he could to put out the fire in his neighbor's house. That is how his own hands were burned." (Sermon Central).

Matthew 6:14 (NIV). ***For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.***

The neighbor forgave and it costs him physical pain. Most of the time forgiveness just means swallowing one's pride. It might cost losing face.

But, the reward for forgiving another is forgiveness from our Father in heaven. He forgives when we forgive. On the flip side (Matthew 6:15) He does not forgive us when we do not forgive.

Forgiveness then, is to be proactive on the part of the believer. Remember, Christians are to be "peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9). Be forgiving just as Christ forgave. His forgiveness cost Him his life.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Forgiveness Is Real

Focal Text

Psalm 51:1-13, 17

Background Text

Psalm 51

Main Idea

We all sin and need God’s forgiveness.

Questions to Explore

How do we avoid categorizing sin into “big” sins and “little” sins?

What are ways we use to hide our sin from ourselves?

How do we understand how our sin impacts others and is a grief to God?

How do we accept forgiveness once we have confessed our sin?

How important is it to make restitution for our sin?

Teaching Aim

The lesson should lead participants to acknowledge sin and to seek forgiveness from God.

Introduction to your personal study:

The setting for this psalm is the visit by Nathan who confronts King David with his sin. King David subsequently repents (See 2 Samuel 12:1-23).

The psalm was written by King David. As king he answered to no man. But, his sin was such that he felt deeply his accountability to God. As you study this psalm note the personal pronouns linked with his sin and his repentance. This psalm teaches us David’s pathway to a restored relationship with God after his sin with Bathsheba and

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against her husband, Uriah. It pictures a life where sin is forgiven and praise to God is offered.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #....) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Focusing on the Meaning:

1. DAVID’S CRY FOR FORGIVENESS (vv. 1-2)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

David begins the psalm with a cry for mercy and compassion. In this psalm David uses three words to describe his lowly estate: (1) transgressions, which are actions known to be in defiance of what is right. It is deliberate rebellion. (2) Iniquity, which refers to the fallen nature of man and separation from God. (3) Sin. Sin literally means to miss the mark.

Judgment is what is called for when a person sins. Forgiveness was not something he could earn. The particular sins are adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah (See 2 Samuel 11:1-12:13). There is deep grief expressed by David. The cry is for mercy and compassion from a God whose love is “unfailing”. David reminds God of His covenant promise to Israel and to him.

There is a book in heaven in which all the deeds of David would be recorded. These deeds will be brought up at the appointed time and judgment will be rendered according to one’s faith and relationship to Christ (See Revelation 20:12). The call from David is for God to “blot out” or erase his deeds from the book of life. He repeats this request in v. 9.

2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Now David asks for washing and cleansing. Iniquity meant perverse and twisted moral evil. Ceremonial washings hearkened back to those done by the priests and Levites before they served in the Temple. It was an outward sign of an inner change much like baptism today.

The point here is David’s desire to be thoroughly cleansed from head to toe. He does not want any vestige of sin left either without or within. He wants **his** sin expunged.

Washing and changing clothes meant a start to a new beginning. Forgiveness will make a difference in one's life. Exodus 19:10-11 is an example. The people sanctified themselves before God came down off Mt. Sinai.

2. DAVID'S AWARENESS OF HIS SIN (vv. 3-6).

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Here begins David's confession of sin. Confession means agreeing with God. Through the prophet Nathan, God revealed David's sin.

There is depth to David's knowing his transgressions. The use of the plural transgressions may mean he is acknowledging his complicity in the death of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband. Everywhere David turned, the sins of adultery and murder were with him.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

David confessed his sin. There was no shirking the blame or pointing the finger elsewhere. He takes responsibility for his sins. He knows that God knows.

Even though the sins had been committed against others, David recognizes that all sin is ultimately against God. Therefore, whatever judgment God determines to mete out will be right.

5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

David was aware that man's sin nature preceded birth. Adam sinned and passed it down to all generations. This is not a disparagement upon David's parents. Sin was a product of his heritage not his parents' fault. However, it revealed itself in his environment.

Wisdom is to know and understand God and His ways. Just as sin preceded his birth so did wisdom. God is sovereign over all of man. Life and knowledge begin at conception.

3. DAVID'S DESIRES A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (vv. 7-12).

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

David once again calls for a renewal of his relationship with God. Sin keeps God from hearing prayer (See Psalm 66:18). The King James Version translates “cleanse” with “purge”. The word means to “unsin”. He wants God to take care of his sin as though it never happened.

Priests used animal blood in their rituals. It was sprinkled using hyssop. The Bible frequently utilizes the hyssop plant as a symbol of cleaning and purification. Hyssop was a bitter herb, a species of marjoram and member of the mint family. The blood atoned for sin. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Hebrews 10:22).

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

He wants a new life free from sin and filled with joy and gladness. Sin had ruined his ability to experience joy and gladness. The progression of the Psalm has been from sin to pardon and now to joy. David was under so much conviction it was as if his bones were being crushed by God. They form a metaphor for his broken emotional state. He was out of fellowship with God. How desperately he needs a word from God.

9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

When God hides His face it usually means He is withdrawing His favor. However, most commentaries seem to interpret this as David’s desire that God forgive. This would make sense when coupled with the second phrase. The difference from verse 1 is the inclusion of “all”. Repetition is a way of David expressing the seriousness he felt about his condition.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Create and renew are in the providence of God. David knew these were capabilities He and He alone had. A pure heart is one that is unadulterated. It is centered on God and His abilities. Since his acts of sin he did not have the ability to stay focused. Both of these characteristics are essential to being a wise king.

11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

A common practice among kings was to exile trouble makers. Moses was exiled to the backside of a desert. David feared his sins would cause God to have nothing to do with him. Once again there is a sense of fear toward God.

The second phrase contains an Old Testament doctrine. God bestowed His Spirit on whom He desired to accomplish a certain task. Since Pentecost the Holy Spirit indwells each believer.

David felt the hand of God guiding his kingdom and prays for that to continue.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

To restore David's joy might be like the father of the prodigal son restoring his son. David understood where joy comes from. He had lost the **"joy of ... salvation"** and asks for it to be restored. It is clear that what he once had was lost. Joy of salvation is that inner peace that comes from knowing that God saves from devastating situations.

This is not to be interpreted as one losing one's salvation. David needed God to give him what was necessary to get back on the right path and sustain him there.

David's situation was drastic. He was going to need quite a bit of intervention from God.

**Let me hear joy and gladness.
Hide your face from my sins.
Blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a new heart.
Renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Don't cast me from your presence.
Don't remove your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore the joy of your salvation.
Help me to keep going.**

4. DAVID'S COVENANT WITH GOD (v. 13).

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

David's promise to God is to teach "transgressors", those who have gone astray morally, God's ways. He will help others so that they will not make the same mistakes he did. His teaching will come from life's experiences and also his relationship with God. This is an example of one who has been in sin and found forgiveness to help another sinner along. One cannot teach what one does not know.

Nowhere does Scripture teach that God's people are to be stingy with God's grace. He wants sinners to turn to God. If God will hear him David promises to give his life for the good of others.

If God will forgive him David will praise Him (vv. 14-15).

5. DAVID'S SACRIFICE (v. 17).

17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

David will not go to the Temple and give a blood sacrifice atoning for his sins. Under the Law there was no sacrifice able to atone. He had committed adultery and murder—the penalty under the Law was death.

Therefore, his sacrifice, his brokenness, he takes straight to God. A broken spirit signifies humility. A broken heart signifies the hurt he feels within. Contrite means remorseful, repentant, and regretful. David has changed. At this point he is not a proud king of a large kingdom. He is meek and lowly seeking atonement from God. The grace of God was extended to David. God forgave David. (See 1 John 1:9).

An important point is this: David's life was visibly changed.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

Your goal for leading this session must go beyond defining sin, confession, repentance, forgiveness, and restitution. Your goal must include helping the group to know how to actually accept and commit to these vital elements of restoring God to Lordship in our lives.

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Forgiveness Is Real

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Psalm 51:1-13, 17

Background Text

Psalm 51

Main Idea

We all sin and need God's forgiveness.

Questions to Explore

How do we avoid categorizing sin into "big" sins and "little" sins?

What are ways we use to hide our sin from ourselves?

How do we understand how our sin impacts others and is a grief to God?

How do we accept forgiveness once we have confessed our sin?

How important is it to make restitution for our sin?

Teaching Aim

The lesson should lead participants to acknowledge sin and to seek forgiveness from God.

Connect with Life:

How do you become aware of sin in your life? Is it through a friend's loving care similar to David's visit with the prophet Nathan? Once sin is confronted it must be confessed to be forgiven.

Guide the Study:

1. DAVID'S CRY FOR FORGIVENESS (vv. 1-2).

Ask a member of the class to read Psalm 51:1-2).

Now ask the group: What four things does David ask God? (Have mercy. Blot out my transgressions. Wash away my iniquity. Cleanse me from sin.)

Explain each one: mercy means do not give me what I deserve. Transgressions are actions known to be in defiance of what is right. It is deliberate rebellion. Iniquity refers to man's fallen nature that separates man from God. Sin means to miss the mark.

Say: What did David do for him to cry out to God for forgiveness? (He committed adultery with Bathsheba and killed her husband Uriah.)

Ask: Would you say those were big sins?

Take a sheet of paper and write "**big sins**" on one side and "**little sins**" on the other.

Ask for answers to this: Name some big sins and little sins. Write them down in the proper category.

Call for responses: Why do you think some are big sins and some are little sins?

Discuss: How do we avoid categorizing sin into "big" sins and "little" sins?

2. DAVID'S AWARENESS OF HIS SIN (vv. 3-6).

Ask for a volunteer to read Psalm 51:3-6.

Ask: Are you aware that all have sinned? Read Romans 3:23 to the group.

Tell the members: David had not read this verse but he was quite aware of his sin.

Ask: What sins had David committed? (Adultery and murder.)

Tell the group: David's sins were so great he felt no animal sacrifice would atone for them. According to verse 4 he felt that he had sinned against God. Therefore, whatever judgment was meted out to him would be justified.

Question: Where does man's sinful nature originate? (With Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.)

Discuss the question: How do we understand how our sin impacts others and is a grief to God?

3. DAVID DESIRES A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (vv. 7-12).

Ask for someone to read Psalm 51:7-12.

Ask: What causes God not to hear a person's prayer? Sin. Read Psalm 66:18 to the group.

Make sure the group understands some of the key words and phrases. "Cleanse" means to unsin. It is as if the sin never happened. "Hyssop" was used by the priests in the Old Testament to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice. Ceremonial washing preceded any sacrifice. He desired to once again experience joy and gladness. Both are inward emotions lost when sin separated him from God. Hiding God's face and blotting out of sin is David's way of saying he desires forgiveness. A pure heart is unadulterated. A steadfast spirit is one centered on "God."

Ask: What does verse 11 mean? Is it possible to have the Holy Spirit taken away?

Explain: In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit was bestowed upon individuals to complete tasks God assigned. It is not until Pentecost that the Holy Spirit indwells.

Question: What does the word sustain mean?

Ask: What does David need to sustain him? (The joy of God's salvation and a willing spirit.)

Be sure the group understands David is not referring to one losing salvation.

4. DAVID'S COVENANT WITH GOD (v. 13).

Ask for a volunteer to read Psalm 51:13.

Ask: What does David promise to do? (Teach others who have gone morally astray.)

Say: David is promising to help others who are going down the road he has traveled? David wants sinners to turn to God. Isn't that what each born-again believer is supposed to want? Nowhere does the Bible say a believer is to be stingy with his/her salvation.

Take a few minutes and let the group write down names of people with whom they can share their testimony.

5. DAVID'S SACRIFICE (v. 15).

Ask for a volunteer to read Psalm 51:17.

List ways sacrifices are made.

Ask: What did the Law call for as punishment for David's sins? (Death by stoning.)

Ask: What sacrifices did David believe God wanted from him? (A broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart.)

Explain: A broken spirit signifies humility. Contrite means remorseful, repentant or regretful.

Tell them: The mighty king David was a meek and lowly human being seeking forgiveness for his sins.

Question: Why do you think David went straight to God with his sacrifices?

Discuss: How do we accept forgiveness once we have confessed our sin?

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Encourage brief discussion with this: How important is it to make restitution for our sin?

Comment: David desired a changed life that would be visible to others. He took the path of service to others.

Conclude with this: Where can you express being forgiven?

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

YOUTH!!! TAKE TEN

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Forgiveness Is Real **Psalms 51:1-13, 17**

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

As each one comes in hand them a copy of this page.

“Think of a time when you were forgiven for something you did that was wrong?”
“Who forgave you and how did you feel?” Take a few minutes to think and then share your experience with the others.

Discuss: Is forgiveness important? Why?

Share this: Even people in authority, like King David, need forgiveness. David went to God and asked forgiveness.

One of you read Psalms 51:1-13, 17 out loud.

Now comment on this: David made a promise to God in verse 17. If God would forgive him and make his life right then he would tell others about how God helped him and how God would help others. That was David’s way of saying thank you.

Apply this to your own life. When God takes away your sin it is important that you tell others what He has done. That is one of the best ways to say thank you to God.

3

Copy this section for the Worship Time leader.

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)

Forgiveness Is Real **Psalms 51:1-13, 17**

Beginning the Service:

Be Still and Know, *The Worship Hymnal* #457; CCLI # 583265

Offering:

Praying for the World:

The Arabs of Chad are seminomadic and number about 2 million in population. In the dry season, they live among more sedentary groups. During the rains, they spread out with their herds among other Arab groups. The hardness of their living environment has deterred those who would bring the Gospel. It also causes much death for the Chadian Arabs: plagues wipe out herds, disease claims the lives of all ages and wars erupt over water wells. They face death with such frequency that they live in fear of God and Satan. Many wear religious charms around their necks and wrists in response to fear and in hope of warding off evil. Pray that the Arabs of Chad may come to know the God of love.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Daily Help Psalm 3:1-8

- ¹ ***O LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me!***
- ² ***Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him." Selah***
- ³ ***But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.***
- ⁴ ***To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. Selah***
- ⁵ ***I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.***
- ⁶ ***I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side.***
- ⁷ ***Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked.***
- ⁸ ***From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. Selah*** (NIV)

Introduction

How do you come to terms with the issues that confront you each day? Is your faith sure and strong that it will stand the tests that come each day? The psalm that we read is a psalm of encouragement. It is from a person who apparently has put his life in the hands of God. It is good for an example for us.

Psalm 3 is a lament Psalm that was written by King David. This Psalm is directly linked to 2 Samuel 15, where David is fleeing his son Absalom who is trying to kill him and take over the throne. It is one of only a few Psalms that ties a Psalm to a specific incident in the life of David. The superscription, or the title above the actual Psalm, is called "The Lord Helps His Troubled People"

David certainly had reason to be discouraged and troubled by the turn of events he now found himself in. There was a pastor who in his first 5 years of the pastorate hung a sign on his desk that said, "Win the World for Christ!", Then in the second 5 years of his pastorate he changed the sign to read, "Win one or two to Christ", but since that time he put up a third sign that said, "Try not to lose too many!".

I. The Struggle (vv. 1-2).

Where do you take your complaints? Here we read David takes them to the Lord. ***O LORD, how many are my foes!*** "Many" is used three times. This is the cry of all. Life is a struggle. There are so many adversaries and struggles. When God sent Adam and

Eve from the Garden of Eden it was to go into a world which would be filled with struggle. The beautiful existence of the Garden of Eden was forfeited by disobedience.

The psalmist is voicing what many feel. This is one of many lament psalms. David writes in the first person. *There are so many things that happen to me every day. Foes are all around me. I seem hemmed in. There are those who mock my faith in God. There are those who desire me to fail in life. My own beloved son Absalom has raised an army against me!*

Those and more were realities of his life. And, these kinds of circumstances can happen to all. Do you have people around you who scoff at your faith and say in words or in actions "God will not deliver him."

II. The Security (vv. 3-6).

But you are a shield around me, O LORD. This is the cry of the believer. David describes God: ***A shield about me. My glory. The lifter of my head.*** These are not the words one who is forsaken by God. They are the testimony of one who has a personal relationship with the Lord. Is this your testimony?

Do you see the connection between prayer and security? The psalmist knows that He can go to God in prayer and be heard. God will act.

This is not blind faith. It is the result of a walk with God that has produced results. Therefore, he can lie down and sleep securely. He knows that the Lord will sustain him.

Charles Spurgeon said it well: "We need not fear a frowning world while we rejoice in a prayer-hearing God" (Spurgeon Quotes, chs.wpatch.com/author/spurgeon/page/3/).

Notice from where the Lord answered David's prayer: "from his holy hill"—the place of the Lord's sanctuary, where the presence of God dwelt with his people. David had been banished from his throne by his enemies. But his enemies had not banished God from his throne. God was still on the throne even though David was on the run.

III. The Salvation (vv. 7-8).

From the LORD comes deliverance. This is a cry of confidence. Salvation belongs to the Lord.

David based his confidence on what the Lord had already done for him. David had a faith file that he could pull out and review to remind himself of the faithfulness of God in his life. Faith looks ahead and faith looks backward.

Each person must deal with the issues of life and come to terms with each one. In dealing with the issues of life the writer does not leave God out of the equation. It is not what happens to us that matters as much as how we deal with what happens. The psalmist knows that it is God who will ultimately deal with all adversity. It is the Lord who will deliver.

Call to Commitment:

Is this help for you? Does this psalm from the Word of God assure you that your struggles can be overcome. There will be times in the life of each of us that we will feel overwhelmed. It is precisely at those times that we should pause and remember these words. There is security and salvation in the Lord. He alone makes it possible for us to overcome all struggles. He indeed is there for **daily help**. Our challenge is to give over all of our difficulties to God and to prove that faith by committing anew our lives to His guidance and care.

Remember, **IT IS NEVER AS BAD AS IT SEEMS IF GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE.**

Concluding the Service:

Bow the Knee, *The Worship Hymnal* # 505; CCLI # 2701725