

HONEST TO GOD

Learning to Pray from the Psalms

WEEK 1: *Community of the Broken*

APPETIZER: Wrestling with God in Prayer

ISRAEL

= SARAH (to persist/contend/wrestle) + EL (God)
= to wrestle with God

Our confidence for Bold Honesty... **Psalm 139:1-4**

Psalm 8:4-6

Examples of Bold Honesty...

Psalm 6:6
Psalm 22:1-2 VS Psalm 22:24
Psalm 25:11, 18 VS Psalm 26:1
Psalm 31:7 VS Psalm 31:12
Psalm 44:23-24
Psalm 55:5-8
Psalm 69:8

Imprecatory Psalms (Imprecations = Curses)...

Psalm 3:7; 5:10; 10:15; 11:5; 28:4; 31:17-18; 35:4-6; 37:13;
40:14-15; 52:6; 58:6-11; 69:23-28; 79: 6; 83:16-17; 109:6-15;
137:8-9; 139:19-22; 140:9-10

VS

Romans 12:20; Matthew 5:43-44; Ezekiel 18:23; 1 Timothy
2:4; 2 Peter 3:9

Why don't we throw out the Old Testament?...

Psalm 102:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;
Romans 15:3-4 (quoting Psalm 69:9)

DINE IN: Honest To God About Our Failure

Psalm 32

Words for sin in **Psalm 32**...

- Transgression (Wilful rebellion)
- Sin (Failure; Missing the mark)
- Iniquity (Guilt; Twisting)

Words for forgiveness in **Psalm 32**...

- Forgiven
- Covered Over
- Not Imputed (Not Counted Against)

Advanced Level Confession... **James 5:16**

"Unfailing Love" = HESED
= God's Covenantal, Unconditional, "Stamped-It-No-Erasies" Love

An invitation to the boldly honest... *Rejoice! Be Glad! Sing!*

TAKE OUT: Broken Like Me

Psalm 31:12; 34:18

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.
~ King David (Psalm 68:5-6)

NEXT WEEK: "Honest To God" continues with Ken Shigematsu!

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Have you read the Psalms before? What was/is your reaction to them?
2. *We READ the Bible and STUDY the Bible and LEARN FROM the Bible... but we FOLLOW Jesus.* Talk about why this is an important distinction for Christ-followers, in light of some of the imprecatory Psalms.
3. Any other thoughts about this week's teaching before moving forward? Anything that bothered or encouraged you? Any remaining questions?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

4. Read **Psalm 32**.
 - a. "Blessed is the one... in whose spirit is no deceit" (**verses 1-2**). What would it look like to live every day in complete honesty? What are the possible problems and potential benefits? Are you up for this?
 - b. Have you ever experienced the wasting disease of dishonesty, as described in **verses 3-4**? If you are open to it, share your experience.
 - c. David confessed his sin to God directly. James (**James 5:16**) also encourages us to confess our sins to a fellow believer so we might be healed. What do you think? What is the value of confession in prayer? What is the value of confession to a brother or sister?
 - d. Wait, we should pray to God "while you may be found" (**verse 6**)? Is there a cut-off time for God's grace? What is David getting at?
 - e. What does David believe about the dignity and freewill nature of human beings? Compare **verse 9** with **Psalm 8:4-6**. How does this inform our theology about predestination and God's control of all things, including human decisions?
 - f. Have you ever had a sense of being "surrounded" by God's "unfailing love"? If so, talk about it. Either way, take a moment (now or in your huddles) to pray to have (more of) this experience.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

5. What has God been saying to you through this week's teaching? Talk about next steps in your life and pray for each other.
6. Is there anything you would like to confess and invite prayer for? This might be a good time.