

Day One: Psalm 115

- According to the psalmist, who should get all the glory (1)? Why (1)? This hymn was likely written during a high point in Israel's history. During the good times, what credit do you give to God?
- What rhetorical question is found in verse 2? Summarize the psalmist's criticism of idols (3-7). Consider it alongside Hebrews 1:1. Unlike idols, how has "God spoke to our ancestors"? What awaits those who worship idols (8)? What is your response to this claim? Does it have any relevance today? Why or why not?
- Describe the psalmist's repeated command to trust in the Lord (9-11). What does he write about God's remembrance and blessing (12-15)? What has God given to us (16)? Who praises the Lord (17-18)? For those facing pressure to give up, pray God would remember and bless them and be "their help and shield." What do you think it would look like for these prayers to be answered?

Day Two: Isaiah 43:8-13

- What does God call the Israelites to do (8)? What are some godly ways to lead the spiritually blind and deaf? What are the limitations of other gods, and when will they become evident (9)?
- Who are the Lord's witnesses and servants (10)? What does embodiment of these roles impart to a person (10)? How has this been true in your own life? What other "various ways" (Hebrews 1:1) does God use to help you maintain belief in him? How does this help you to never give up?
- Where is the only place to find salvation (11)? What evidence backs up this claim (12)? Do you believe these things to be true of God – not just for the ancient Israelites – but for you, too? As a witness, what is your own testimony of the Lord's deeds?
- Because of who God is, what will never happen (13)? Meditate on the phrase "no one can deliver out of my hand." May God's grip on your life help you to resist any pressure to give up.

Day Three: Daniel 1

- Set the scene of this text (1-2). Describe those the king wanted in his service (3-4, 6-7). What training and provisions did they receive (4-5)? How do you think it felt for these young men to be chosen for this exceptional task?
- What did Daniel resolve not to do (8)? What made it possible to walk this out (8-14)? What was the result of the ten-day test (15-16)? How did these four men fare in their roles (17, 21)? Imagine the less fortunate ways this could've played out: Daniel's request denied, failure of the ten-day test, etc. How do you think Daniel would've then coped? When things get hard, how do *you* resist the pressure to give up?
- Describe the king's interactions with and assessments of these young Israelites (18-20). In this graduation season, pray the grads in your life excel "in every matter of wisdom and understanding" and never give up on God.

Day Four: Acts 7:54—8:8

- How did the Sanhedrin respond to Stephen's speech (7:54)? Skim through the speech in verses 1-53. Which parts do you think most inflamed the council? Why do you think Stephen spoke so boldly?

- Summarize Stephen's response to the fury and teeth-gnashing (7:55-56). Describe his death (7:57-8:1). What is your response to these final moments of Stephen's life?
- What else happened on that day (8:1)? What about in the days that followed (2-3)? Imagine if the story ended here, with the first Christians – paralyzed by grief and trauma – calling it quits. Following Jesus was simply too costly, too deadly. What would be different about the world today? How did they instead press on?
- What were some of the next chapters of these first Christians' story (8:4-8)? Despite brutal persecution, the gospel spread, people were healed and there was great joy. Wow! Pray you'd abound in Holy Spirit-fueled resilience, just as these believers did.

Day Five: 1 Peter 1:3-9

- Whom does Peter praise, and why (3-4)? The Lord gives so much! New birth, living hope, an everlasting inheritance, etc. Through Jesus, these are the things God speaks over us today. Respond to the Lord. Describe the faithful's current status (5). Pray for a deep awareness of God's shielding power; may it produce in you an ability to never give up on following him.
- How should we respond to everything Jesus has given to us (6)? What might we suffer "for a little while" (6)? What do these trials prove (7)? And what is the reaction to such faith (7)? Turn verses 6-7 into a prayer for the persecuted church throughout the world. May the genuineness of its faith be strengthened.
- Describe Peter's take on what it means to have faith in Jesus (8-9). What is it like to love someone you can't see? What's it like to "have an inexpressible and glorious joy"? In any way these experiences bolster your resolve to never give up, pray for more.