

other regions and tribes joined together. The unity in worship must have been something to behold! And the fact that the author addresses harmony in this Psalm is not a surprising topic for a road trip.

1. “How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony” (Psalm 133:1)! What indicators have you seen personally of the unity experienced by the Christ followers you know?
2. Is there discord among those relationships? Pray for those relationships and situations.
3. What can you do to encourage unity in the lives of Christ followers around you?
4. Psalm 133 describes unity as good, precious, refreshing and life giving. How have you experienced this personally? Who might benefit from hearing your story?
5. God has called us to be a community together and to live in peace. Send a text, an email, or a card to someone you know to encourage them.

*Amanda Rue*

**Day 30:**    **Wade In** – Psalm 140:4-5,10,   **Jump In** – Psalm 140,   **Dive In** – Psalm 136-145

At a former job, I was performing my tasks as well as my managers, keeping toys and sleeping bags for my boys in my office, because we all seemed to live there.

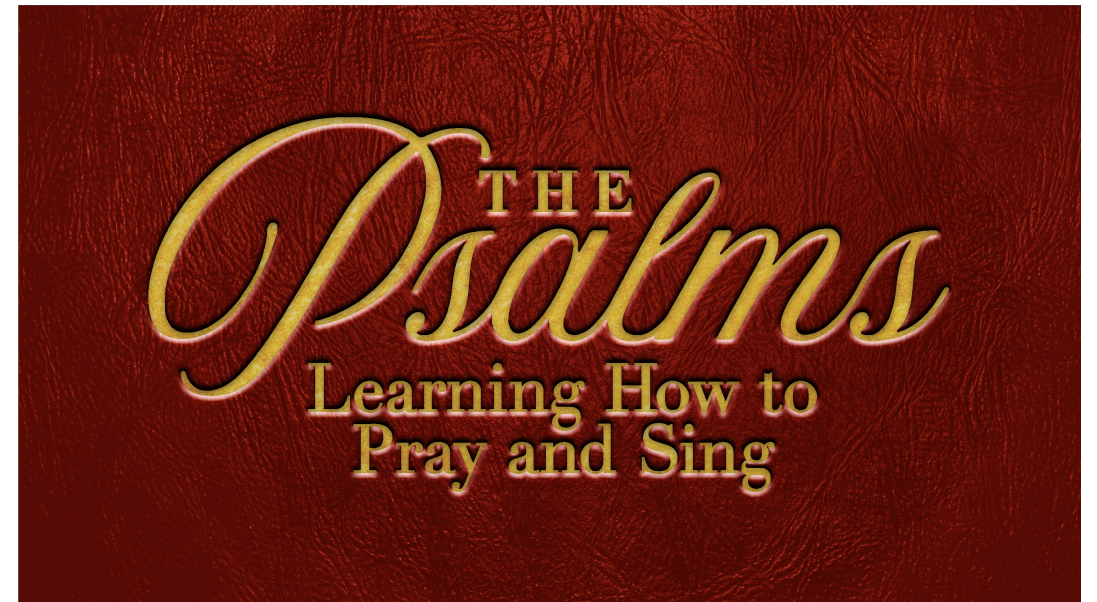
I had a vivid, nightly dream where I was at a large employee gathering and everyone was energetically dancing. I kept getting pushed to the outside fringes of the dance floor. The closer I got to the outside of the group, the more unstable the flooring became, separating and pulling apart. As the gaps in the floor boards became a chasm, I fell into a deep, dark, muddy pit, surrounded by leaking pipes and rats. I tried repeatedly to climb out, to no avail. No one could hear me or help. I was a captive! Each dream became more vivid, until I could feel the mud between my toes and fingers.

I prayed every day to be delivered from my stressful work. One day, as I read Psalm 140, I decided to find a new job. The day I walked out of that demanding office, I had the same dream, but instead of falling into the dark pit, I was in a finished lower level, flooded with light. When I looked up, I could see all the areas of flooring separated in sections from very strong to very weak. I knew where to step and be secure, AND there were stairs leading up to the dance floor (with a handrail)! I was saved! I never had that dream again.

Is God trying to let you know you’re wallowing in a pit? Are you paying attention to His promptings? Don’t be a captive to your current situation. Be brave! Trust in the Lord! Pray for guidance, then step out in confidence, praising God for His grace and mercy. He’s got you – all the time! He is your deliverer!

*Patty VerDouw*

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## **Week 6 Devotional - Defeat of Evil**

**Lord you are so awesome and you are so faithful to your people. Just like in times of old - how the seas were split (Red Sea) and the land shuttered (Battle of Jericho) to defeat the enemies of Israel; I know you will do the same for us today.**

**Jesus open our eyes to how you move, how you are the same today, yesterday and forevermore. How even now, in your mighty presence the issues of this day (those enemies of our faith, the hardships that keep our eyes off of you) must bow and confess you as Lord.**

**Jesus when we see no way through the circumstances and enemies of our lives, help us to remember the truths of your word, and help us to keep our eyes on you. The God of the Heavenly Armies, who defeats every enemy that rises against us, our family, our friends, our faith...**

**Lord you are the mighty warrior, greater than everything, and help us to truly know this. Let us see our circumstances through eyes of FAITH, and not fear. Help us to BELIEVE you and your word and help us to REST knowing you are a good Father (taking care of us and are protecting us) when we face our enemies**

(Prayer inspired by Psalm 108:12-13 and 114, The Passion Translation).

*Jen Einrem*

**Day 26:**     **Wade In** – Psalm 107:14,   **Jump In** – Psalm 107,   **Dive In** – Psalm 107-111

I remember having imaginary battles in medieval lands with my brother and cousins as a kid. When someone was captured or did wrong in our make-believe world, they were hauled off to the dungeon. This was usually a closet with the lights off and the door closed. Even though no real punishment or danger was involved, it was a scary and lonely place to a kid.

Today, we still encounter dungeons. These are those scary and lonely times where we feel the darkness closing in around us. We fight and struggle with the chains that hold us captive there, but we can't seem to free ourselves.

In Psalms 107-111, King David praises God for hearing the cry of his people during hard times. David knew that it was God who gave them the help they needed and the ultimate victory. Just like King David and his people, God hears our cries from the dungeon. Ask Him to defeat the darkness and break the chains that are keeping you from the victory that He promises.

*Bethany Whitworth*

**Day 27:**     **Wade In** – Psalm 115:1,8,   **Jump In** – Psalm 115,   **Dive In** – Psalm 112-118

Who do you worship? Who sits on the throne of your heart? Who or what consumes your thoughts? What shapes your days? These are the questions that I came face to face with when I encountered this Psalm. Being raised in church, I knew what the answer was supposed to be. It's God. End of devotion.

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness” (Ps. 115:1, ESV)!

But if I'm honest, too often, the pride in my heart changes the “your” in verse 1 to “our.” I attempt to bring glory or fame to my name as well as the Lord's. This empty, foolish action displaces the Creator of the Universe from his rightful place and dishonors the life and mission of the King of Kings. What's more, when I praise the Lord on Sunday, but seek fame and create idols for myself the other six days of the week, I am as empty as the objects I've collected. The Psalmist reminds us in verse 8 that those who make such idols “become like them; so do all who trust in them.” So not only do such actions hollow out my heart for God, but they have the potential to negatively influence others.

Thankfully, the Psalms are overflowing with examples of how to keep Christ as the center of our lives and Psalms 112-118 are no exception. We keep God as the object of our worship by keeping God as the object of our worship. This happens by daily reading God's Word, praying, and worshiping our loving and faithful God. We counter pride with humility. I appreciated this truth in the first sermon of this summer's At the Movies sermon series\*. The preaching team emphasized how the above practices “grow humility and gratitude.” “Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom (Proverbs 11:2, NLT).”

Pray Psalm 117: “Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise him, all you people of the earth. For his

unfailing love for us is powerful; the Lord's faithfulness endures forever. Praise the Lord!” Amen.

*Amanda Rue*

**Day 28:**     **Wade In** – Psalm 119:93,   **Jump In** – Psalm 119:89-112,   **Dive In** – Psalm 119

Today's devotion brings us to the longest psalm and chapter in the Bible...176 verses! This entire chapter is devoted to God's Word. The theme is God's Word is true and wonderful. We are to stay true to God and His Word no matter how bad the world becomes.

We need to remember that during the time this Psalm was written, people did not have personal copies of the Scriptures. God's Word was memorized and passed on orally. Can you imagine memorizing 176 verses much less teaching it to everyone they knew to make sure God's Word was passed on to generation after generation?

Look at all the ways God's Scriptures are referenced in Psalm 119: your word, your instructions, your laws, your commandments, your decrees, your commands, your regulations, your promise.

In our day and age, most of us have several copies of the Bible in our homes. But, how often are they read? Many are collecting dust or tucked away in some drawer. When is the last time you memorized any Scripture? Was it during Catechism or in preparation for Confirmation?

We have lost the habit of memorizing Scripture. We are not encouraging our children or grandchildren to memorize Scripture. We have lost what our ancestors and forefathers did to make sure Scripture was passed on to generation after generation.

What happened? What has caused this?

Now we have our television, our internet, our video games, our movies. Look at the way the Scriptures are referenced above and the way the items are referenced in the previous sentence. Do you see how the word “your” has been replaced by “our”? Do you think this plays a role in our discipline of Scripture memory?

*Bruce Walth*

**Day 29:**     **Wade In** – Psalm 104:1-2,   **Jump In** – Psalm 104,   **Dive In** – Psalm 103-104

Psalm 133 is part of a section of Scripture known as the Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120-134). These were sung by the Jewish people as they made their way to annual religious festivals. I recently read an article that compared annual feasts in the Old Testament to a road trip. Have you ever gone on a road trip with your family? Road trips can be full of meaningful time with friends or family and good memories that last a lifetime. Road trips can also be quite the opposite! Imagine a road trip with all your immediate family, extended family, friends, neighbors, church members and co-workers. Now that is a very different trip altogether! This is what the annual treks to Jerusalem were like. And as the trip went on, people from