

How to Look More Like Jesus – September 8 & 9, 2018
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Psalm 73

- What is the psalmist certain about (1)? How is he different from the “pure in heart” (2-3)? Summarize his observations of “the arrogant” (3-12). Why do you think he is so fixated on these people? What’s a godlier way to respond to this misfortune?
- What does the psalmist believe he’s done in vain (13-14)? Why does he reveal these thoughts to the Lord only (15)? How do his feelings evolve on the matter (16-17, 21-22)? When you respond poorly to a trial, perhaps via despair or envy, enter God’s sanctuary and allow him to show you a better way. As you consider taking this route, what is the Lord speaking?
- Summarize the psalmist’s new perspective on the wicked (18-20, 27). What good things of God does he then recall (23-26, 28)? Which of these verses speaks most to your heart? Why? Commit it to memory so you can recite it whenever life gets rough.

Day Two: Psalm 107

- How does this psalm begin (1)? Who should tell their story (2)? Where do “the redeemed” come from (2-3)? Summarize the wanderers’ experience of God (4-9). In what areas of your life do you need the Lord’s “straight way”? Ask for his intervention now.
- Describe the plight of “prisoners” (10-12). How were they redeemed (13-14)? How ought they respond to this redemption (15-16)? In what ways is your testimony one of a prisoner set free? Next up the psalmist traces fools’ spiritual journey; describe it (17-22). How are the prisoners and the fools similar?
- Summarize the redemption of sea merchants, and how it symbolizes what it’s like to endure unwarranted suffering (23-32). If you can relate in any way, ask the Lord to minister to you now.
- Describe hardship’s ebb and flow (33-42). What roles do both God and sin appear to play? What exhortation concludes the psalm (43)? What is one tangible way *you* can “heed these things”?

Day Three: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

- What keeps Paul from becoming conceited (7)? The point isn’t to figure out exactly what tormented him. Rather, Paul is illustrating that hardship can root us in reality and highlight what really matters. Speak to the Lord about your own experience of this.
- Describe Paul’s plea (8). How did God respond (9)? Our suffering can make us more like Jesus; it’s a conduit for his presence and power. In what ways do you feel insufficient? In what ways are you weak? Allow God’s power to come into these spaces and be made perfect. What would that look like in your daily life?
- What things bring Paul delight (10)? Why (10)? Do you think he truly feels this way? Why or why not? How does he again contrast weakness with strength (10)? The power of God’s presence makes it possible to flee from sin and to persevere. When facing trials, may you become more like Jesus in these ways.

Day Four: Hebrews 10:19-39

- Why should we draw near to God with sincerity and assurance (19-22)? Focus on the phrase “a new and living way.” How can such a thing transform you in to looking more like Jesus? Ask God to begin doing that work in you now; receive his living way.

- Why should we hold on to hope (23)? Instead of giving up meeting together, what should we do (24-25)? In times of trial, what benefit does gathering together offer? What will the love and encouragement produce? Pray you'd be this sort of gatherer.
- What awaits those who deliberately sin despite knowing the truth (26-31)? If you or someone you know is forsaking Jesus in this way, pray for them now. Ask God to rescue us from our messes.
- Describe the persecution the believers endured (32-34). What reminders does the author give about persevering thanks to the confidence that comes from Jesus (35-39)? Which reminder moves you the most? Why? Talk to God about this.

Day Five: 1 Peter 3:8-18

- What "do's and don'ts" does Peter give for living a godly life (8-9)? Why should we abide these commands (9)? Which of these behaviors are strengths for you? Which ones are struggles? Ask God to empower you to look more like Jesus across the board.
- Summarize the psalm excerpt Peter quotes in support of his argument (10-12). How should we approach suffering for doing what is right (13-15, 17)? How did Jesus endure such an ordeal (18)? Recall a time you suffered for doing the right thing. Describe the impact it made on you and on the world.
- What question should we always be prepared to answer (15)? If you don't resemble Jesus, it probably won't be asked of you. But it will if you exude hope, resiliency, etc. Pray you'd be known by the latter. What does success in this endeavor mean for people who maliciously speak against you (16)? Pray for them, too.