



*Hello! This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truths to our lives individually and corporately. As such we encourage you to spend at least half your time pondering and discussing questions that are application focused. While the guide has been bulked up, we still need to prepare by praying through the passage, reviewing the guide on our own, and thinking about how our group might answer questions.*

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## Psalms - Alive to God

The goal of this series is to show and cultivate a sense in our people of being alive to God, walking with him, engaging with him and having our hearts enlarged by him.

### Background of Psalm 27

Psalm 27 is a psalm of confidence comprising five distinct units (strophes) of Hebrew poetry. These units focus on (1) confidence in the Lord (v.1); (2) confidence in spite of enemies (vv.2-3); (3) confidence in the sanctuary (vv.4-6); (4) confidence in prayer (vv.7-12); and (5) confidence in the Lord (vv.13-14).<sup>1</sup>

### Christ in Psalm 27

David's intense, personal, and joyful expression of faith in God in the midst of his enemies foretells an even more intimate, deeper, sweeter and richer faith we can have in God. God as David's light, salvation and stronghold against his enemies describe God as David's rescue from temporal troubles. Christ as our ultimate light, salvation, and stronghold secures us from the righteous wrath of God, the assaults of sin and Satan, and from worldly confusion and calamities.<sup>2</sup> In and through Christ our Saviour, Christians can confidently approach God's throne of grace to obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need (see Hebrews 4:16).

### Big Idea of the Text

Psalm 27 is a exuberant declaration of faith in God who gives clarity and saves (v.1) and who is one's stronghold against enemies and fears (vv.1-3). It calls on us to see, seek, and find God's beauty (v.4).<sup>3</sup> This can be done through gazing at the Lord in a steady sustained way (v.4); taking shelter in God (v.5); singing to God with joy (v.6); praying to God in a deeply personal way (vv.7-8); seeking God's teaching and leading (v.11); and waiting courageously for the Lord (v.14).

### Goal of this Study

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<sup>1</sup> See R.C. Sproul, ed., *The Reformation Study Bible: New King James Version* (Sanford, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2016), 894.

<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from S. Lavington, "Christ a Stronghold," BibleHub, [https://biblehub.com/sermons/auth/lavington/christ\\_a\\_stronghold.htm](https://biblehub.com/sermons/auth/lavington/christ_a_stronghold.htm) (accessed 21 February 2019).

<sup>3</sup> See Ibid. and Timothy Keller and Kathy Keller, *My Rock My Refuge* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2015), 49-50.

To encourage your CG to have confidence and trust in the Lord when we are afraid.

### Icebreaker Question

1a. What are you afraid of?<sup>4</sup>

### *Read Psalm 27:1-14*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and salvation;  
Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
Of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> When evildoers assail me  
To eat up my flesh,  
My adversaries and foes,  
It is they who stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me,  
My heart shall not fear;  
Though war rise against me,  
Yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup> One thing I have asked of the LORD,  
That will I seek after:  
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
All the days of my life,  
To gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
And to inquire in his temple.

<sup>5</sup> For He will hide me in His shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
He will conceal me under the cover of His tent;  
He will lift me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me;  
And I will offer in His tent  
Sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
Be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup> You have said, "Seek my face,"  
My heart says to You, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

<sup>9</sup> Hide not Your face from me;  
Turn not Your servant away in anger  
O You who have been my help;  
Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!

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<sup>4</sup> See Tim Chester, *Soul Songs: Exploring Love, Temptation, Guilt and Fear from the Psalms*, The Good Book Guide Series (United Kingdom: The Good Book Company, 2009), 29.

<sup>10</sup> For my father and my mother have forsaken me,  
 But the LORD will take me in.  
<sup>11</sup> Teach me Your way, O LORD,  
 And lead me on a level path  
 Because of my enemies.  
<sup>12</sup> Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;  
 For false witnesses have risen against me,  
 And they breathe out violence.  
<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
 In the land of the living!  
<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD;  
 Be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
 Wait for the LORD!

### Reflection Questions

2. What can we know about David's situation from the Psalm?<sup>5</sup>
3. How does David respond to his difficult situation? (v.1-5)
4. What is the reason for David's confidence? (v.1-3)<sup>6</sup>
5. What is the one thing that David desires most of all (v. 4-6)?
6. Why is dwelling in the house of the Lord so important to David? How does dwelling in the Lord's house help his situation? (verses 5 to 6)

Q7. We are often afraid because we are worried about what we might lose. How does knowing God help us overcome this fear?<sup>7</sup>

Q8. We are often afraid because of what might happen to us. How does knowing God help us overcome this fear?<sup>8</sup>

Q9. Look at verses 7 to 10. What does David fear?

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<sup>5</sup> See Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> See Ibid.,30.

<sup>7</sup> See Chester, *Soul Songs*, 30.

<sup>8</sup> See Ibid., 30.

Q10. How does he deal with this kind of fear?

Q11. What does David take comfort in, in verses 11-14?

Q12a. How does knowing Jesus give us an even greater confidence when we face difficulties?

Q12b. How do verses 10 and 12 remind us of what Christ went through for us at the cross?

Q12c. How do verses 13 and 14 remind us of what Christ purchased for us on the cross?

Q13. One of the things we often fear is rejection. We worry about what other people think of us. We need their approval. How does God help us overcome this kind of fear?<sup>9</sup>

Q14. What has fear led you to do?

Q15. What should we do when we are afraid? Consider vv. 13-14)<sup>10</sup>

Q16. How can we help one another overcome our fear?<sup>11</sup>

### **Apply Practically**

Ask each other how you can pray for one another's fears. Approach God with your fears by praying together as a group.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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<sup>9</sup> See Chester, *Soul Songs*, 31.

<sup>10</sup> See Ibid., 32.

<sup>11</sup> See Ibid., 32.

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