

SONGS FOR SUMMER

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 44 (ESV)

To the choirmaster. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah. O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old: ²you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free; ³for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them. ⁴

You are my King, O God; ordain salvation for Jacob! ⁵Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down those who rise up against us. ⁶For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me. ⁷But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us. ⁸In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever. Selah ⁹But you have rejected us and disgraced us and have not gone out with our armies. ¹⁰

You have made us turn back from the foe, and those who hate us have gotten spoil. ¹¹You have made us like sheep for slaughter and have scattered us among the nations. ¹²You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no high price for them. ¹³You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us. ¹⁴You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples. ¹⁵All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face ¹⁶at the sound of the taunter and reviler, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger. ¹⁷All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant. ¹⁸Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way; ¹⁹yet you have broken us in the place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death. ²⁰If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, ²¹would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart. ²²Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. ²³Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever! ²⁴Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression? ²⁵For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground. ²⁶Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!

Next Week: Psalm 45

August 12, 2018

TALK SHEET

Have I engaged with someone outside the church this week with...

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship | <input type="checkbox"/> Word |

1. How would you summarize the “tone” of this psalm? What do you think God thinks of this kind of prayer? Explain.
2. Is the memory of the good things in verses 1-8 a positive thing or a negative thing? Explain.
3. Does the writer feel loved by God? Is there resolution to his complaints? Explain.
4. What do you think is the saddest part of this lament? Why?
5. Have you ever felt as despairing as the writer of the psalm? Can you share it with the group?
6. Spend a minute reminding yourselves of God’s blessings in the past. Is there anything you need to lament about?