

6. What do these truths mean to you?

7. Read verses 19-24. How do you react to these verses?

8. How are verses 19-24 consistent with the rest of the psalm?

9. What do you most appreciate about this psalm?

10. How does this psalm anticipate Jesus?

11. How does belonging to Jesus connect us to this psalm?

12. How should this psalm impact our thinking & living?

**Allow this psalm to shape your prayers together.**



## encouragement groups selected Psalms

2011 term 3

### July 20 briefing night

1. July 25-29 Psalm 1
2. Aug 1-5 Psalm 2
3. Aug 8-12 Psalm 15
4. Aug 15-19 Psalm 23
5. Aug 22-26 Psalm 46
6. Aug 29-Sept 2 Psalm 73
7. Sept 5-9 Psalm 96
8. Sept 12-16 Psalm 121
9. Sept 19-23 Psalm 139

**Oct 12 briefing night for term 4**

# Encouragement groups introduction

## What are encouragement groups?

Groups of 3-4 people meeting weekly for 60-90 mins to read & reflect upon a passage of Scripture, to pray together & to encourage each other in trust & obedience & evangelism.

Every encouragement group across nightchurch will be looking at the same passage in the same week with a shared set of questions.

Each encouragement group will have an “overseer” responsible for the group meeting together and for what happens in that meeting. Its not the overseers job to make the group "work" That's the responsibility of every member.

Overseers will be cared for by the leadership team. Each overseer will be contacted by a leadership team member every 2 weeks to help & encourage them.

Its hoped that encouragement groups through the year may expand and bud into more groups with more overseers.

## What should happen when an encouragement group meets?

Something like this...

Arrive & catch up (10mins)

Prayer with & for each other. (10 mins)

Read through passage and use discussion questions to help one another hear & obey the Word of God. (45 mins)

Pray together in response to the Word of God (10 mins)

Time together

**An encouragement group will work best when people are committed to gathering, preparing beforehand, and discussing lovingly.**

**Encouragement groups should also be missional. ie. Praying regularly for unbelievers and working together to share Jesus with our friends & community.**



## STUDY 9: PSALM 139

*These questions are designed to be worked through prayerfully by each member of the encouragement group BEFORE meeting together. This will be an encouragement to the rest of the group and a help to you as you meet.*

*The questions are just a guide to helping us hear God's Word. Don't be constricted by them!*

### READ PSALM 139

1. *In verses 1-6 note the verbs that David uses to describe the Lord God.*
2. *What do these verses teach you about the Lord God? Are things comforting or confronting?*
3. *In verses 7-12 what new truths about the Lord God does David celebrate?*
4. *What do these truths mean to you?*
5. *In verses 13-18 what new truths about the Lord God does David celebrate?*

4. *What does this psalm teach us about the Lord God?*

5. *How does this psalm anticipate Jesus?*

6. *How does belonging to Jesus connect us to this psalm?*

7. *How should this psalm impact our thinking & living? Be practical & specific.*

**Allow this psalm to shape your prayers together.**



## STUDY 1: PSALM 1

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### READ PSALM 1

1. *What do you notice about the blessed man in v1?*

2. *What's the impact in v1 of using the words walk, stand & sit?*

3. *How is v2 the opposite of v1?*

4. *In the Psalms, meditate appears to be the only word used to describe what we are to do with the Bible. eg. the word "read" doesn't appear. What does this suggest to you?*

5. *Reflect on the image of the tree in v3. What does it teach you about the blessed person?*

6. *What do we learn of the wicked in this psalm?*

7. *What does this psalm teach us about the Lord God?*

8. *How does this psalm anticipate Jesus?*

9. *How does belonging to Jesus connect us to this psalm?*

10. *How should this psalm impact our thinking & living?*

**Allow this psalm to shape your prayers together.**



## STUDY 8: PSALM 121

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### READ PSALM 121

*Psalms 120-134 are each called 'A song of ascents'. It's possible that these were the particular psalms sung by the pilgrims as they travelled up to Zion atop Jerusalem where the temple stood for one of the great festivals.*

1. *Divide the psalm up into 3 stanzas and give a title to each.*

2. *Choose what you think is the most important line in the psalm. Why?*

3. *Where do you often look to for help other than the Lord? What makes you look there?*

4. *What demands does the psalm make upon the singers of the psalm?*

5. *What is the expectation of the psalm?*

6. *How does this psalm anticipate Jesus?*

7. *How does belonging to Jesus connect us to this psalm?*

8. *How should this psalm impact our thinking & living?*



## STUDY 2: PSALM 2

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### READ PSALM 2

*It's thought that this Psalm was a Psalm sung at the coronation of each King in Jerusalem.*

1. *Divide the psalm up into 4 'scenes' and come up with a title for each scene.*

2. *What do we learn of the way of the world in this psalm?*

3. *What does this psalm teach us about the Lord God?*

**Allow this psalm to shape your prayers together.**

4. What do we learn of the Anointed One (the Son, the Messiah, the Christ, the King)?



## STUDY 7: PSALM 96

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### READ PSALM 96

1. Take time to carefully note all that this psalm celebrates about the Lord God.
  2. Which of these things do you especially appreciate? Why?
  3. Which of these things do you not often praise in the Lord God? Why?
5. How does this psalm anticipate Jesus? In what ways is Jesus an obvious fulfilment of Psalm 2. In what ways is Jesus a surprising fulfilment of Psalm 2?
  6. How does belonging to Jesus connect us to this psalm?
  7. How should this psalm impact our thinking & living?

**Allow this psalm to shape your prayers together.**

5. *What do you most appreciate about this psalm?*

6. *What does this psalm teach us about the Lord God?*

7. *How does this psalm anticipate Jesus?*

8. *How does belonging to Jesus connect us to this psalm?*

9. *How should this psalm impact our thinking & living?*

**Allow this psalm to shape your prayers together.**



## STUDY 3: PSALM 15

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### READ PSALM 15

1. *What do you notice about the structure of this psalm?*

2. *Re- write the question of verse 1 in your own words. (note the poetic parallelism!)*

3. *Why is this the most important of all questions?*

4. *In verses 2-5 there are 6(?) descriptions of the person who may dwell in the Lord's sanctuary. Take some time to ponder each description:- what does it mean? what would it look like? why is it challenging?*

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## STUDY 6: PSALM 73

*These questions are designed to be worked through prayerfully by each member of the encouragement group BEFORE meeting together. This will be an encouragement to the rest of the group and a help to you as you meet.*

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### READ PSALM 73

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5. *What is the promise of v5?*
  6. *What does this psalm teach us about the Lord God?*
  7. *How does this psalm anticipate Jesus?*
  8. *How does belonging to Jesus connect us to this psalm?*
  9. *How should this psalm impact our thinking & living?*
1. *Divide the psalm up into 4-6 'stanzas' and come up with a title for each one.*
  2. *In what ways do you sometimes share Asaph's envy of the unbelievers?*
  3. *In what ways do you sometimes share Asaph's thought that there is no advantage to being among the people of God?*
  4. *How would entering the "sanctuary of God" bring proper understanding?*

**Allow this psalm to shape your prayers together.**

5. What does the rest of the story of the Bible teach us about the city of God? (Heb 11.13-16, Heb 12.18-24, Heb 13.14, Rev 21.1-5)



## STUDY 4: PSALM 23

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### Read Psalm 23

The difficulty of this psalm is that it is so well known & loved. It might be helpful to us an unfamiliar but accurate translation of the Bible to help you come at this psalm with fresh appreciation.

1. Re write each line of this psalm in your own words.

6. How does this psalm anticipate Jesus?

7. How does belonging to Jesus connect us to this psalm?

8. How should this psalm impact our thinking & living?

**Allow this psalm to shape your prayers together.**

2. *What do you most appreciate about this psalm?*

3. *What does this psalm teach us about the Lord God?*

4. *How does this psalm anticipate Jesus?*

5. *How does belonging to Jesus connect us to this psalm?*

6. *How should this psalm impact our thinking & living?*

**Allow this psalm to shape your prayers together.**



## STUDY 5: PSALM 46

*These questions are designed to be worked through prayerfully by each member of the encouragement group BEFORE meeting together. This will be an encouragement to the rest of the group and a help to you as you meet.*

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### READ PSALM 46

1. *Divide the psalm up into 2 'stanzas' and come up with a title for each one.*

2. *What do you most appreciate about this psalm?*

3. *What does this psalm teach us about the Lord God?*

4. *What does the psalm teach us about the city of God?*