

ANSWER GUIDE

PSALMS II



LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY

*A ministry of the Diocese of Little Rock
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Psalms 132, 2, 110, 101

1. Personal responses will vary. At that time prayer may have offered stability, comfort, challenge, a way to deal with changes, and so forth. It is important to focus the group on prayer as this study begins.
2. a) The psalms remain relevant because they respond to universal human problems, feelings, and situations, common throughout history and across cultures.
b) This is a good time to share hopes within the group.
3. Since we are created in the image of God and by baptism are made royalty, our routine lives and daily decision making become the realms of our authority. Just as the kings of Israel needed prayer for wisdom, strength, and humility, so do we in our realms.
4. God had made a covenant with David, assuring him that he would never lack an heir to sit upon the throne. Psalm 132 provides a caveat: "If your sons observe my covenant" (132:12).
5. Whenever the kingdom was threatened by outside forces, remembering God's covenant with the Davidic line would help give both king and people courage.
6. By spending time to be with the Lord in prayer, meditation, Scripture reading, and worship we become more aware that God is also with us and within us.
7. a) The coronation of a new king in the Davidic line.
b) Minor kingdoms or nations that owed allegiance to the Davidic king would find the transition time between old and new kings to be ideal times to revolt.
8. Being hailed as the son of God probably tempted many kings to cease regarding their own humanity and mortality, leading them to embrace many of the sins that flow from vaunted pride and self-glorification.
9. Responses will vary, as there are many temptations. Media attention, for one, often creates a godlike aura around celebrities.

10. They had a special priesthood, the eternal priesthood of Melchizedek, one not belonging to the tribe of Levi or the descendants of Aaron.
11. These included offering sacrifice, holocausts before the ark of the covenant.
12. Discuss ways you worship God together, minister to one another, and serve the larger community.
13. Discussion.
14. Discussion.
15. Discussion.
16. In other translations, integrity = blameless, faultless, upright. Integrity is living what one professes.
17. Responses will vary.
18. Responses will vary. Reflecting on one's personal struggles with keeping resolutions and living up to ideals will help give perspective to the royal resolutions.

LESSON 2

Psalms 72, 45, 20

1. Responses will vary. The first question each week allows the group to discuss or respond to the previous lesson before moving forward.
2. They are to receive justice and bounty, and the poor and oppressed will be defended.
3. Enjoy each other's imagined bounty.
4. a) For discussion. Some may note that praying it after the exile might raise hopes for the future, perhaps even intensifying hope in a coming messiah.
b) Those who choose to share will probably give very personal, unique responses.
5. Abraham was obedient and faith-filled (the "father of faith"). The promise made to him by God continues to bear fruit in our own generation, since we are his descendants.