

WEEK 5: MORE OF PSALMS
DAY 1: PSALMS ABOUT PRAYING TOGETHER

1. At the end of last week we learned two things from the Psalms about times of trouble.

From the Psalms, what two things can we believers do in times of trouble?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. We can ask God to help us and we can praise God. We have been seeing the prayers of different Psalm writers one by one. Now we will see that a whole village can pray together. A whole nation or believers can pray. This teaches us something important.

From the way in which the people of Israel prayed in the Psalms, we know that all the followers of God should do the work of praying.

In Psalm 80 we have a great prayer. The vine in these verses is the nation of Israel. Take your Bible now and read Psalm 80:8 to 10. In these verses, are many people praying, or is one person praying? _____

3. Many people are praying. It is good for one person to pray alone. He should ask God to help him in all his needs, large and small. But a whole nation should pray too. In Psalm 80 the people saw that their nation was in trouble. They had turned from the right way and they were being punished.

When a whole nation of people need help, to whom should they pray? _____

4. It is good for a large group of people to pray together to God. The believers of a whole nation can do this. The people of Israel disobeyed God again and again. They had many troubles. There came a time when their temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. All the people came together. Psalm 74 is their prayer about this.

Psalm 74:1-2:

O God, why dost thou cast us off forever? Why does thy anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture? Remember thy congregation, which thou has gotten of old, which thou hast redeemed to be the tribe of thy heritage!

Was this a prayer of all the followers of God, or did the leader of Israel pray alone? _____

5. All the followers of God prayed. At another time the people of Israel had been defeated in fighting. They thought God had left them. Again they prayed.

Psalm 60:1:

O God, thou hast rejected us, broken our defenses; thou hast been angry;
oh, restore us.

At such a time, how many of the followers of God should do the work of praying?

6. The work of praying should be done by all the followers of God. Let us see another example of this. The people of Israel had been taken into a strange country called Babylon. There they prayed to God. But the people of Babylon worshipped idols. They laughed at the Jews for believing in God. They told them to sing songs about God.

Psalm 137:1,4:

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept ... How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign (or strange) land?

Because the people needed help, they prayed. To whom did they pray? _____

7. The helper of the people of Israel was God. But He allowed them to be defeated by their enemies because they disobeyed Him. They suffered troubles as a whole nation. Their temple was destroyed in Jerusalem. Many of their people were killed. Others were carried away into the strange land of Babylon.

When the nation of Israel needed help, what did they do? _____

8. When they needed help, they prayed. They talked with God.

Pastor George was very much concerned about his people. It was almost time to vote for new Members of Parliament. Some men who wanted to be chosen were Christians. Others were not. Pastor George wanted his country to be led by good men. He asked the people of his church to come to a special prayer meeting. They prayed for one big need. They asked God to help people vote wisely. They asked Him to give them good leaders for their nation.

In the book of Psalms, what people prayed together for God's help? _____

9. The people of Israel prayed together. They all prayed. Sometimes they fasted when they prayed. Often they wore old clothes and put ashes on their heads. They did these things to show their great sorrow.

When the people of Israel needed help, they all did the work of praying. When our nation needs help, what should all the followers of God do?

10. We should all do the work of praying when our nation needs help. The people of Israel prayed together about many things. But sometimes they met together and prayed about only one thing.

When we do the work of praying, we do not wear special clothes. We do not put ashes on our heads.

But do you think we should sometimes meet together and pray about one special thing? _____

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11. Let us talk together about this in class. I think it is good to pray about just one big thing sometimes. But why are we saying the "work" of praying? Is prayer work? Yes, it is. It is hard work, but very good work.

Sinners cannot do the work of praying. They are not followers of God. They do not trust God. They are followers of Satan. The only prayer they can pray is the prayer to be forgiven.

Proverbs 15:29:

The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 28:9:

If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination (or it is like sin to God).

Who can do the work of praying? _____

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12. The followers of God can do the work of praying. Jesus was the Son of God, but he prayed.

Luke 22:44:

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.

Did Jesus see praying as hard work, or as a very easy thing? _____

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13. Jesus knew that praying is hard work. God made David leader of the people of Israel. David was a follower of God. Sometimes David prayed alone. But many times he led large groups in doing the work of prayer.

God gives us many good leaders in our churches today. They are followers of God. They pray much, but we should not leave them to do the work of prayer alone.

How many of the followers of God should do the work of praying? _____

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14. All the followers of God should do this work. There are many Psalms which tell about the prayers of the nation of Israel. Some of them are: Psalm 10, 12, 44, 58, 60, 74, 77, 79, 80, 83, 89, 94, 123, 137.

We have seen in today's lesson that the followers of God should do what work?

15. This is the work of praying. We should be like the people of Israel. And we should follow our prayers with praise.

Who should do the work of praying? _____

16. All the followers of God should do the work of praying. Jesus said we should pray for God's will to be done on earth. There are many things which our churches should be praying about.

Think about your church. What are some things your church should be praying together about?

Go to other leaders of your church and explain this lesson to them. Find out if they are ready to call meetings to pray for great needs.

17. We shall talk about these things in class.

From the way in which the people of Israel prayed in the Psalms, who should do the work of praying?

WEEK 5: MORE OF PSALMS
DAY 2: PSALMS ABOUT ENEMIES

1. From the way in which the people of Israel prayed in the Psalms, who should do the work of praying?

2. Those who should do the work of praying are all the followers of God. We have studied Psalms about wisdom, praise, and prayer. Now we will see some lessons about enemies and evil. Perhaps this lesson will dig deep into our hearts. Let us allow God to speak to us. Christ's death on the cross made it possible for us to do two things.

(1) The
Christian should love
all
people
even
enemies.

(2) The
Christian should hate
all
evil.

Take your Bible now and read Psalm 56:1 to 9.

Do all the people of your village love one another? _____

3. If they do, you have a very good village. Perhaps some do not love one another. But Christians should love all people, even their enemies. In David's time, many people did not follow God's laws. They made life very difficult for David. Look at David's prayer about them.

Psalm 35:1, 4:

Contend (or fight), O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me! ... Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life!

Was David praying about his friends, or his enemies? _____

4. David was talking to God about his enemies. But do we expect Christians today to pray such a prayer? No. Christ has made it possible for us to love our enemies. Let us read another prayer of David. This time he prayed about those who once worshipped with him. Now their lives were full of sin.

Psalm 55:14-15:

We used to hold sweet converse (or talk) together; within God's house we walked in fellowship. Let death come upon them; let them go down to Sheol (or death) alive; let them go away in terror into their graves.

This prayer seems like a curse rather than a blessing. But how many people should a Christian love?

5. A Christian should love all people. David knew God's law. We cannot easily excuse him for praying for God to curse his enemies. The law said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" but no more than that.

Leviticus 19:17-18:

You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbor, lest you bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance (or repay) or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

A sinner is not able to pray a prayer of love for his enemies. Who should be able to pray a prayer of love?

6. We expect a Christian to pray a prayer of love, even in great troubles. David's enemies laughed at him. They hunted him like an animal. David had not chosen to follow the way of sin. He knew that God was on his side. He still had faith in God. He wanted to protect the honour of God's name.

A Christian should love all people, even whom? _____

7. A Christian should love even his enemies. But let us be slow to condemn David. Let us see why he prayed as he did. David had not done the wrong things that others had done. Tomorrow we shall see David's sin and his prayer for forgiveness. But when we look at other men, we see that David was a good man.

Psalm 59:3-4:

For no transgression or sin of mine, O Lord, for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.

Psalm 56:9:

This I know, that God is for me.

David had great love in his heart for God. What should he have had in his heart for all people, even his enemies?

8. He should have had great love for his enemies. Perhaps he did. When we look closely, we see that he did not pray against the people because he hated them. He hated all the evil they were doing. David loved God and hated evil with all his heart. God is holy. He cannot look on evil. David knew this.

Habakkuk 1:13:

Thou who are of purer eyes than to behold evil and canst not look on wrong.

Write Yes beside the sentence which is true. Write No beside the one which is not true.

_____ David hated all his enemies.

_____ David hated all the evil that was in his enemies.

9. You should have written No for the first one, and yes for the second. David hated all evil. He and the other Psalm writers knew that God is holy. Evil must be destroyed. Sometimes evil people must be destroyed because they will not repent. This is why God told Israel to destroy all the people who lived in Canaan. The people of Canaan did not worship God. They were full of evil and would not repent. The writers of the Psalms loved good.

The person who is a Christian should love good. He should love all people, even his enemies. What should he hate? _____

10. We who are Christians should hate all evil. But we must love all people. Jesus taught us in the New Testament whom we should love.

Matthew 5:43-44:

You have heard that it was said, 'You should love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Whom should the Christian love? Give the full answer. _____

11. He should love all people, even his enemies. If you forgot the last part of the answer, your answer is not good enough.

The Christian should also hate all evil. God's word does not talk about little sins and big sins. All things which break God's law are sin. Many people do not love God. Their lives are full of evil. God cannot be happy with their evil ways.

Who should hate all evil? _____

12. The Christian should hate all evil. Sometimes people who love God are persecuted. You remember Stephen, God's servant. When he preached, the people became angry. They stoned him to death. But Stephen loved his enemies. He prayed for them as he was dying.

Acts 7:59-60:

And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Do you know about any African who has been killed because of his faith in God?

13. A twelve-year-old girl in West Africa was burned to death because of her Christian faith. She died singing a song of praise to God. The son of a chief in East Africa was cut to pieces because he would not turn from God. He died because of his faith.

David also kept great faith in God. He wrote things which encourage us. He wrote that God can always give us victory even if we are hunted like animals.

Psalms 55:22:

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

The Christian should love all people, even whom?

The Christian should hate what? _____

14. The Christian should love all people, even enemies. He should hate all evil. We must be careful. It is possible for us to see evil so often that we forget it is bad. We excuse it. We say, "Everybody does it," and we do not speak against it. We are afraid people may laugh at us. They may even hurt us. So we keep quiet. We do not really love good and hate all evil.

Did David keep quiet when he saw the sins of his people? _____

15. David did not keep quiet, and we must not keep quiet.

From the teaching of Psalms of Christ, whom should the Christian love besides God?

What should the Christian hate? _____

16. The Christian should love all people, even enemies. He should hate all evil. Prayers in the Psalms about wicked enemies are: Psalm 35, 52, 54, 55, 56, 59, 64, 70.

Do you think it is possible to hate evil without hating people? _____

Let us talk about this in class.

17. From the teaching of Psalms and of Christ, whom should the Christian love, besides God? _____

What should the Christian hate? _____

WEEK 5: MORE OF PSALMS

DAY 3: PSALMS OF CONFESSING AND REPENTING

1. From the teaching of Psalms and of Christ, whom should the Christian love, besides God?

What should the Christian hate? _____

2. The Christian should love all people, even enemies. He should hate all evil. The Kalenjini people of Kenya have a proverb which says, "Even though a cow has four legs, it can slip." David was King. He was wise. But he fell into sin. We shall learn four things David did after he sinned. Read them carefully.

- (1) David understood that he had sinned.
- (2) He confessed his sins.
- (3) He asked God to forgive him.
- (4) He thanked God for forgiving him.

Take your Bible now and read what David prayed. Read Psalm 51:1 to 10.

Do you know someone who was a faithful Christian but fell into sin in a time of temptation? _____

3. The story of David's temptation and sin is written in 2 Samuel 11 and 12. When David became king he took many wives. They brought jealousy and quarreling to his house. Later, he took the wife of Uriah. He put Uriah at the front of the battle so he would be killed. This was murder.

God sent Nathan to tell David the story of a rich man. The rich man took a poor man's lamb. David was very angry when he heard the story. Then Nathan said, "You are the man." This was the beginning of David's return to God.

- (1) David understood that he had sinned.

Who obeyed God and helped David understand that he had sinned? _____

4. God's messenger was Nathan, a very brave prophet. No person repents until he understands that he has sinned. Some people have their own thoughts of what sin is. They do not accept what the Bible says about it. We need to help people know what sin is. God sent Nathan to talk to David.

What was the first thing David did about his sin?

- (1) _____
 - (2) He confessed his sins.
 - (3) He asked God to forgive him.
 - (4) He thanked God for forgiving him.
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5. **King David understood that he had sinned. If people disobey God's law, they have sinned. God needs many people like Nathan. They must not be afraid to witness even to the king. May you be like Nathan!**

God wants you to help people understand that when they have disobeyed his laws, they have done what? _____

6. **People must understand that they have sinned. Sometimes it is easy for us to see the sins of other people. But it is difficult to see our own sins.**

Psalm 51:1:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions (or sins).

As David prayed, he talked to God about whose sins? _____

7. **David talked to God about his own sins. This is the second thing David did after he sinned. (1) David understood that he had sinned. (2) He confessed his sins.**

Psalm 51:3-4:

For I know my transgression, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight.

From these verses, did David confess his sins, or did he try to hide them? _____

8. **He confessed them. He did not try to accuse someone else. He knew that he had sinned against God. It was good for David to confess. But he had not finished. He went on to ask God to forgive him.**

Psalm 51:7-9:

Purge (or wash) me with hyssop (or soap), and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow ... blot out all my iniquities (or sins).

Write the first two things David did after he sinned. Then read the third and fourth.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) He asked God to forgive him.

(4) He thanked God for forgiving him.

9. **David understood that he had sinned. And he confessed his sins. After that, he asked God to forgive him. If we have done wrong to someone, we should ask that person to forgive us. David had committed adultery and murder. Now he was very sorry.**

Who can forgive even very great sins as we confess them to him? _____

10. God can forgive even the greatest sins. He will forgive the sinner who is really sorry. David cried because of his sins. Sin made him very troubled in his mind and in his body.

Psalm 6:2, 6:

O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled ... I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.

Psalm 51:8:

Let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice.

What did David ask God to do to his sins? _____

11. David asked God to forgive him. He knew he had committed sins. He had broken God's laws. His heart was turned toward sinning. He prayed for washing. He prayed for a clean heart and a right spirit.

Psalm 51:2, 10:

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Psalm 32:5:

I acknowledged my sin to thee, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;" then thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.

Did God forgive David? _____

12. God will forgive all who have sinned. But we must ask him to forgive.

Sometimes we get tired of working. We want to rest. It is good for us to rest, but we must not be lazy. One reason David sinned was that he was not working. He sent Joab and the soldiers to war but he stayed at home. If he had been at his work, he would not have been tempted as he was.

Write the second and third things David did after he sinned. Then read the fourth.

(1) David understood that he had sinned.

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) He thanked God for forgiving him.

13. David understood that he had sinned. He confessed his sins. Then he asked God to forgive him. God forgave David. Then David thanked God for forgiving him. This is the fourth thing he did.

One day two visitors came to my house. A father brought his little son, Kibet. After the greeting, the father said to his son, "What should you say?"

Kibet stood crying. He was holding a small carrot which he had taken from my garden. He said, "I spoiled your vegetable." His father reminded him that there was more to say. Kibet added, "I am sorry. I want you to forgive me." Of course I forgave Kibet.

His father said there was one more thing. "Thank you for forgiving me," Kibet said.

Kibet's repenting was not finished until he had done what at the end? _____

14. Kibet thanked the one who forgave him. David also thanked the one who forgave him. Psalm 32 is filled with thanksgiving. It was written after David was forgiven. It shows the feeling of his heart.

Psalm 32:1:

Blessed (or happy) is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

What is the fourth thing David did after he sinned?

- (1) He understood that he had sinned.
 - (2) He confessed his sins.
 - (3) He asked God to forgive him.
 - (4) _____
-

15. He thanked God for forgiving him. The Psalms David wrote about confessing and forgiving are: Psalm 6, 31, 32, 38, 51, 102, 120, and 143.

God sent Nathan to speak to David. Do you think God wants you to help other people do the four things David did? _____

Write one way in which you can do this. _____

16. We will talk about this together. David had seen King Saul's life end without God. Saul did not repent. David had seen what terrible things sin can do. David did not want God to take away his Holy Spirit from him.

Psalm 51:11:

Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Say to yourself the four things David did after he sinned.

17. When anyone has sinned he must be like David. David understood that he had sinned. He confessed his sins. He asked God to forgive him. And he thanked God for forgiving him.

Psalm 51:17:

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite (or sorry) heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Stop and thank God now that he forgives those who repent. Prepare a sermon for your people from this lesson. On another paper write the big things to say. Try to preach the sermon if you can. Bring your paper to class

18. What four things did David do after he sinned?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____

WEEK 5: MORE OF PSALMS

DAY 4: PSALMS ABOUT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

1. What four things did David do after he sinned?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

2. David understood that he had sinned. He confessed his sins. He asked God to forgive him. He thanked God for forgiving him.

We have learned that the book of Psalms had many writers. David wrote more than half of the songs. Other songs were written by other men and women. But there was one thing which each writer knew. That is what we shall learn today. What did the Psalm writers believe about God's faithfulness?

They believed that God never fails.
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Take your Bible now and read about this in Psalm 91:1 to 6.

Do you think we sometimes worry because we forget that God never fails?

3. My answer to this question is Yes. We forget to trust God. Many Psalms say something about trusting God. Psalm 23 is the one most people know best. It is such a good Psalm that we shall study it by itself next week. It begins this way.

Psalm 23:1:

The Lord is my shepherd.

Do sheep worry about their lives, or do they trust their shepherd? _____

4. Sheep trust their shepherd. They do not worry. In many of the Psalms, the writers prayed about their troubles. Then while they were still praying, they believed that God had heard them.

Psalm 28:1-2, 6:

To thee, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me ... Hear the voice of my supplication (or prayer), as I cry to thee for help ... Blessed be the Lord! for he has heard the voice of my supplications.

In this Psalm, David was in danger from evil people. He needed God's help. When he prayed, he did not doubt. What did he do? _____

5. David believed God. He praised God for hearing him. David said that he was sure there was one who would help him.

Psalm 27:5:

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble.

Who would care for David in time of trouble? _____

Who will care for you and me when we have troubles? _____

6. God never failed to help David when he prayed. God will also help us. In the Old Testament, God helped those who believed in Him. He helped Joshua, Gideon, Amos and many others. He still helps us today when we believe in Him.

Does God never fail, or does he sometimes fail? _____

7. He never fails. A young man in East Africa wanted peace in his heart. He was baptised. He got a job with the railway and bought a motor car. He built a house and married a wife. But still he was not happy.

The young man was made Station Master. With others he began to steal things from the trains and sell them. He was getting rich quickly, but he had no peace. Soon he lost his job and began drinking.

Finally he received Christ. Then God reminded him of the things he stole from the railway. He thought that if he confessed, he would be put into prison. He and his Christian friends prayed much. When he went to Kampala to confess, God helped him. He was not sent to prison, but was forgiven. Then he began to pay the railway for what he had stolen.

Who did not fail to help this man who became a true Christian? _____

8. God did not fail to help him. Even if we are put into prison, God will be with us. The Psalm writer was in many kinds of danger. Sometimes enemies wanted to kill him. Sometimes he was with wild animals. Sometimes he had no food. Sometimes his friends left him. They told his enemies where he was hiding. But look what he wrote.

Psalm 36:5:

Thy steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, thy faithfulness to the clouds.

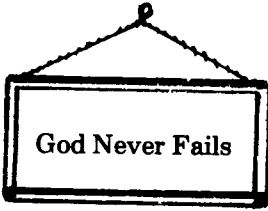
Psalm 89:1:

I will sing of thy steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim thy faithfulness to all generations.

Are people always faithful, or do they fail sometimes? _____

What did the writers of the Psalms believe about God's faithfulness? _____

9. People sometimes fail. But God never fails. We must remember this. Perhaps we should hang these words on our walls.



God knows everything. He always knows what is best for us. Sometimes when we pray He answers in a different way from what we expect. Sometimes He lets us wait a while and then He answers. Sometimes He answers no. This is because He knows what we are asking is not good for us. Even Jesus prayed that God's will and not His would be done. God knows all things.

Psalm 147:5:

his understanding is beyond measure.

Will there be a day when God will fail in helping us? _____

10. God never fails. If anyone fails, it is not God. Sometimes God seems to fail but that is because we do not understand all His ways. God knows everything and He is everywhere. The Psalm writers did not have the New Testament to give them light. But they had wonderful fellowship with God. They knew that God is everywhere and that God cares for us.

What writers believed and wrote that God never fails? _____

11. The Psalm writers believed this. Look what they wrote.

Psalm 91:1,2,11:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God in whom I trust." ... For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways.

Psalm 139:8:

If I ascend to heaven, thou art there! If I make my bed in Sheol (or death), thou art there!

What did the Psalm writers believe about God's faithfulness? _____

12. They believed that God never fails. They knew that God is with us everywhere. They knew that God has great power and God is power!

Psalm 115:3:

Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases.

Psalm 150:2:

Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his exceeding greatness!

The Psalm writers prayed until they knew God heard them. Then, without doubting, they praised God. The Psalms of trust are: Psalm 4, 11, 16, 23, 27, 28, 57, 61, 90, 91, 101, 121, 125, 131.

Perhaps you know someone who feels afraid and doubts God. Take your Bible and go to see that person. Share with him or her what you have learned in this lesson. Read Psalm 91 and pray together.

13. What did the Psalm writers believe about God's faithfulness?

WEEK 5: MORE OF PSALMS
DAY 5: PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

1. As we come to the end of another week of lessons, we thank God for the Psalms.

What did the Psalm writers believe about God's faithfulness? _____

2. They believed that God never fails. The book of Psalms is the longest book in the Old Testament. It is loved and read by many people. It tells about things which all of us see, hear, feel and need. We have already learned many things about the greatness of God. Today we shall thank God. We shall learn:

In Psalm 100 we
learn that we should
give great thanks to God.

Take your Bible now and read Psalm 100. Read verse 4 again. With what should we enter God's house? _____

3. We should enter with thanksgiving. It is important to give thanks. Mary was carrying her child on her back when she met Priscilla on the path. After they greeted, Priscilla gave the child a small fruit. The mother immediately said, "Thank you." By doing this many times, Priscilla will teach her son to be thankful for what he receives.

The child was too small to talk. What did the mother say for him? _____

4. His mother said "Thank you" for him. Parents and teachers help to teach children to be thankful. This mother began while her son was very young. It is the custom among many people to receive a gift with both hands. This is not because they are afraid the gift will be taken away again. It is not because they are selfish.

Why do people receive a gift with both hands? _____

5. They receive the gift this way to show they are thankful. Children should be taught to thank while they are still very young. Some older people have never learned to say "Thank you."

A certain man was cutting down a tree. His axe slipped and he cut his foot. He was many miles from a hospital so he went to the nearest house. The woman who lived there was very busy, but she stopped her work to care for the man. She soaked his foot in a bit of medicine she had. Then she bandaged his foot. When she had finished he went away without saying a word.

What should he have said? _____

6. Perhaps the man was thankful but he did not say so. It takes only a short time to smile and say, "Thank you." It helps the person who says it and the one who hears it. But this was not the first man who did not seem to be thankful. A long time ago Jesus healed ten lepers. Nine of them did not come back to thank Jesus. Only one came back when he saw that he was healed.

Luke 17:16-17:

And he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks ... Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?"

How many lepers thanked Jesus for His healing? _____

Think carefully. How many should have given thanks? _____

7. Only one returned. Ten should have returned to give thanks.

The Apostle Paul was writing about sinful people in the book of Romans. We said it is sinful not to be thankful to God.

Romans 1:21:

For although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him.

Those who are not Christians do not give thanks to God. Who should give Him this special kind of praise? _____

8. Christians should do this. All of us who follow God should thank Him. Praising God and thanking God are not the same. They are a little different. Praising God is giving honour to Him. Thanking God is telling Him we are happy for something He has done for us. The writers of Psalms made special sacrifices to God.

Psalm 50:14:

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Psalm 107:22:

And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving.

In these two verses, what were the people doing? _____

9. They were thanking God. They gave sacrifices because of something God had done. If we are not careful, we Christians sometimes complain instead of giving thanks. We may begin to do this every time instead of thanking God. This does not speak well to our neighbours about our trust in God.

Psalm 95:2:

Let us come into his (God's) presence with thanksgiving.

Instead of complaining, we should come with what? _____

10. Complaining brings sadness. Thanksgiving brings smiles and joy. Giving thanks is part of our Christian witness. When someone does a kind act for us, we should be quick to give thanks. But this is not all. We should give thanks to those whom we hire to help us. When they have done a good job, paying them is not enough.

Do you think we should thank Christians when they help us? _____

Do you think we should thank those who are not Christians when they help us?

Do you think we should thank children when they try to help us? _____

11. We shall talk about these together. Benjamin was a teacher. He did not have time to repair his fence. He hired a workman and showed him what to do. A few days later the workman came for his pay. Benjamin paid him and said, "Thank you for doing a very good job. The fence is really very nice now." The workman went home happy for two reasons: he had money in his pocket and encouragement in his heart.

Psalm 100:1, 4:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! ... Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name!

From Psalm 100, what should we give to God when He does something for us?

12. We should give thanks. We should thank God and we should thank everyone who helps us. Let us say that I want to buy four kilos of sugar. The shopkeeper says he has only a little sugar. He will sell me three kilos, but I want four. I am a Christian but the shopkeeper is not.

Write Yes beside the one which will help him want to be a Christian. Write No beside the one which will not.

_____ I complain because I do not get all I want. Then I invite the shopkeeper to church on Sunday.

_____ I thank the shopkeeper for letting me buy three kilos of sugar. And I invite him to church on Sunday.

13. I am sure you wrote Yes for the second one. People need to be shown love. We can drive people away from God by complaining. One way to show love is to thank people who are kind to us. We also need to show our love to God. Psalm 100 talks about this. Other Psalms also teach us this lesson.

Psalm 136:1-3:

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever. O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures for ever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

What should we give to God when He does something for us, like loving us?

14. We should give Him thanks. When we ask for something, we should give thanks even before the prayer is answered. The Psalms which teach us to give thanks are: Psalm 30, 34, 40, 41, 66, 92, 108, 116, 138, and 144.

The New Testament also says much about this. Paul said we should not worry. We should pray with thanks.

Philippians 4:6:

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Take time now to think of all the good things that have been done for you. Spend sometime thanking God for them. Perhaps you can sing a song which says, "Thank you, Jesus."

15. From Psalm 100 and other Psalms, what should we give to God when He does something for us?
