

## The Deepest Place Psalms Summer 2009

### INTRODUCTION

We're off on a journey the next 10 weeks to learn a bit more about the Psalms. Each week we'll provide a series of questions and ideas for you to work on as a group or individual. We hope this serves you well.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you like to read? What books have you currently read or are reading? Are you reading more or less than you used to?
2. What parts of the Bible do you most enjoy reading? Have you ever wondered why? Probe this a bit.
3. What's your experience with the Psalms? (Good, bad, life-giving, frustrating, puzzled, confused, overwhelmed, etc?) There are no 'right' answers to this question.
4. What is your "psalm knowledge quotient?" Which ones do you know? Make a list – even if it's only partial ideas or phrases. If you were looking for help from the Psalms, what would you do?
5. Does the idea of God encouraging us to say nice things about him seem alien to you? What is at the essence of praise? How do praise psalms help us here? Read Ps 103.
6. Over 60 of the Psalms are 'spiritual griping.' How does this strike you? Read Psalm 42
7. Go ahead, complain – but do it to God. Make a heartfelt, honest, expression of pain, sadness and brokenness. Use one of the lament psalms to help you. (3, 22, 31, 42-43, 139)
8. Read and reread Psalm 51 for next week.

### THINK ABOUT IT

To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God;  
to feed the mind with the truth of God;  
to purge the imagination by the beauty of God;  
to open the heart to the love of God;  
to devote the will to the purpose of God

William Temple