



*Great  
Commission*

Baptist Church

*Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher*



**A Book of Praise and  
Devotion  
Adult Sunday School  
Curriculum  
January – April 2018**



**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
Adult Sunday School Lesson  
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

## **The Book of Psalms**

**January - April 2018**

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**Lesson I**

**Date:** January 7, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 25: 1-10

**A Prayer for God's Deliverance Part 1**

**Lesson Aim:** As we enter a new year - 2018, believers are encouraged to keep trusting in God, who is the source of our strength and our courage in facing an unknown future.

**Open It**

1. When have you felt that you were treated unfairly?

---

2. How would you complete the sentence: "It's not fair that . . ."?

---

**Explore It**

1. What prayer request opens this psalm?

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2. Whom did David want God to "put to shame"?

---

3. How did David feel about the hostility of his enemies?

---

4. What did David ask the Lord to reveal to him and why?

---

**Get It**

1. How can good come from being unfairly treated?

---

2. How do you think Christians should respond to unfair treatment?

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3. How can we follow David's example of trusting God?
- 

4. What trouble and "enemies" do you face?
- 

**Apply It**

1. What requests would you like to present before the Lord today?
- 

**Summary:** Today's lesson teaches us throughout our lifetime we will encounter tortuousness and divergent pathways where we will have to make decisions as to the direction we will go. How often do we see the direction we must take yet choose to go another way? The key to making the right decisions is trusting in God for deliverance in any and every situation. While seeking God for deliverance, we must realize there is an element of patience required in trusting Him. Like David, as we pray for God's deliverance, we must choose to leave everything in God's hand and entrust our life to Him. Believers must have a desire to be led and guided by God, and realize that God's primary guidance for deliverance is in His Word, the Bible. Those who study the Word and wait on the Lord through faith will not be disappointed nor let down. God is faithful to deliver us and has given us no cause to doubt His faithfulness. Unfortunately, we only want God to lead us if He is leading us where we want to go. We only want to see the way we want to go, be taught what we want to learn, and be led in the direction that we think is best for ourselves. This is not trusting in God and is not giving our lives to Him. In 2018, believers are encouraged to continue praying a prayer for defense, guidance, and pardon. As we trust in God this year, He grants these same requests for us.



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**Lesson II**

**Date:** January 14, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 25: 11-22

**A Prayer for God's Deliverance Part 2**

**Lesson Aim:** As we enter a new year - 2018, believers are encouraged to keep trusting in God, who is the source of our strength and our courage in facing an unknown future.

**Open It**

1. What troubles go with your station in life (parenting, singleness, student, overworking, empty-nester, etc.)?

---

**Explore It**

1. What attitude did David have about himself and God?

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2. Why was David praying?

---

3. What did David desire?

---

4. What did David ask God to do?

---

**Get It**

1. In light of this psalm, how can you deal with the pressures and problems in your life?

---

2. What does this passage tell you about the relationship God wants to have with you?

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3. How do you think you could strengthen your relationship with the Lord?
- 

4. What motivates you to put your confidence in God?
- 

**Apply It**

1. In what specific ways can you put your hope and trust in the Lord?
- 
2. In what way might you be able to demonstrate your trust in God in a troublesome circumstance this week?
- 

**Summary:** David during a time of suffering and despair, he cries out for deliverance, asking God to draw near to Him. We too have the right to plea to God when we feel alone and distant. Although we know God is near, we can ask Him to help us know and feel that He is there. God has not left us alone as we journey through this life. He continues to provide aid for us and blessings to us as we seek the paths He has set before us. Though we must be led through the valleys of life while enduring the evils of this world, God is still able to deliver us. God delivers us from sin, from our enemies, from temptations, from trials, and from evil. With God on our side, we can experience complete deliverance. We have the ability and right to pray to God for deliverance and ask Him to prevail over our struggles. James 1:2 encourage us to count it all joy when we go through trials and sufferings, knowing we have a God who can carry us through the turmoil and make us stronger for what we have endured. It might seem easy to give up, and no longer be a servant in the midst of our trials. It is easy for us to grow careless in our service to God. We may choose not to live up to the character of God when times get tough. If ever two powerful forces were needed to preserve us in 2018 as we journey through life, they are integrity and honesty. David asked for these to protect him step-by-step. David's request in today's lesson was to remain righteous and upright toward God. He lived a turbulent life even though he was a man after God's own heart. Living in righteousness will bring enemies, nonetheless we are to continue to pray for God's deliverance. God can turn the worst into something wonderful!



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**Lesson III**

**Date:** January 21, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 26: 1-12

**Walking in Integrity**

**Lesson Aim:** Believers will learn how to do right even when they have been done wrong; it is our duty and privilege to honor God regularly in private and in public.

**Open It**

1. What keeps you coming back to your local church?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think many people hesitate to get involved in ministry at their local church?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. To what or whom (sports teams, family, locations, etc.) are you very loyal?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Explore It**

1. How had David shown his faithfulness to the Lord?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. With whom did David refuse to associate?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What public act of devotion did David offer to the Lord?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What promise did David make to the Lord?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Get It**

1. What temptations threaten to tarnish your integrity?  
\_\_\_\_\_



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2. How can we follow David's example of trusting God?

---

3. What should we do to demonstrate our respect for God's house?

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4. How are you involved in ministry at your local church, and what benefits do you gain from your commitment?

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### **Apply It**

1. What specific places, people, or things do you need to avoid this week to lessen the temptations you have to face?

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2. What is one way you could demonstrate support for your church this week?

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**Summary:** In Psalm 26, David's pen pricks our conscience like a needle. His words touch a sensitive nerve. They expose our conditioned reaction when wronged – to retaliate. Common sense whispers defend yourself. Social media writes, “#Don't get mad, get even!” Like a rattlesnake, coiled within us, our carnal nature lies ready to immediately strike. Retaliation seems to remain one of today's favorite sports. Psalm 26 teaches us a supernatural alternative to our natural reaction. David has suffered some undeserved wrong and it has been very painful to endure, nonetheless he refused to retaliate. Likewise, as believers, we too will suffer from undeserved wrong, yet we must use any wrong done to us as an invitation to be transparent before the Lord. Let it be a learning experience and an opportunity for growth and maturity. We can ask God to examine us, trusting Him to forgive our sins and clear our record according to His mercy. Too often we complain about our problems to anyone who will listen, and praise God only in private. How much better it would be for us to complain privately and to praise God publicly. Praise and thanksgiving is usually the first thing to go out the window when we get hit by unfair criticism, undeserved criticism, and/or ungodly behavior. When it happens, and it will, sooner or later, we must remember Psalm 26. Talk to God about it. Remember God's loving faithfulness. Refuse to listen to ungodly advice. Keep your hands clean and your heart thankful as you walk daily in integrity – being what you say you are.



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**Lesson IV**

**Date:** January 28, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 27: 1-14

**Waiting on the LORD**

**Lesson Aim:** Believers will be reassured to know that unwavering confidence in God is still our antidote for fear and loneliness.

**Open It**

1. How do you feel when you have to wait a long time for something you really want?

---

2. What are some events, people, or things that are worth waiting for?

---

**Explore It**

1. What did David mean when he said, "The Lord is my light"?

---

2. Why was David able to trust God in the face of danger?

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3. How is faith shown in this passage?

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4. What dangers did the king face?

---

5. Where did David find safety and strength?

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6. To what extent did David depend on the Lord?

---

7. What gave David courage while he awaited God's deliverance?

---



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**Get It**

1. When has your faith in the Lord been challenged?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What role should faith play in our everyday lives?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How could you strengthen or renew your dependence on the Lord?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How can you follow David's example in handling your fears?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does it mean to "wait for the Lord"?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Apply It**

1. What is one step you could take right now to renew your faith in the Lord?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:** David shares with us that the Lord is his light in the midst of everything he is experiencing. He is in fellowship with God. He is patiently waiting on God. He is walking with God and therefore has great confidence that he has nothing and no one to fear. David knew all too well what it meant to wait on the Lord. He had been anointed king at the age of sixteen, but did not become king until he was thirty. During the wait he was chased through the wilderness by jealous King Saul. David had to wait on the Lord for the fulfillment of his promise to reign. Later, after becoming king, he was chased by his rebellious son. Waiting on the Lord is not easy. Oftentimes it seems that He is not answering our prayers or does not understand the urgency of our situation. That kind of thinking implies that God is not in control or is not fair. But God is worth waiting for, and He often uses times of waiting to refresh, renew, and teach us. Make good use of your waiting times by discovering what God may be trying to teach you in them. Will you allow God to continue to be the light of your life in 2018? Will He continue to be your deliverance, your salvation, and your stronghold in times like these? If you are not waiting on the Lord, walking with Him, and working to draw nearer to Him, then you do not have the confidence that is spoken about in today's lesson. Make a commitment to strive diligently to wait on the Lord and to draw closer to Him in every way. Be committed to talking to Him more and reading His Word more. Meditate on His Words more and study His Word more. As you wait patiently on the Lord, watch how He will provide all that you will ever need.



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**Lesson V**

**Date:** February 4, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 28: 1-9

**A Plea for Help**

**Lesson Aim:** God's people can appeal for help in distress to their great Shepherd and can rely on His guidance and salvation in view of His commitment to them. The leaders of God's people should intercede for the Lord's blessing on the people under their charge, as David did.

**Open It**

1. What is a hypocritical politician? Teacher? Journalist? Christian?

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2. What hypocrisy do you see in the world today?

---

**Explore It**

1. What image did David use to refer to death and the grave?

---

2. What physical act of worship did David combine with his prayers?

---

3. What hypocrisy did David see in the people around him?

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4. How did David want the Lord to deal with the wicked?

---

5. What reason did David have to believe that the Lord would destroy the wicked?

---

6. What kind of relationship did David have with the Lord?

---

7. What kind of relationship does God desire to have with His people?

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**Get It**

1. How does God view hypocrisy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What motivates you to praise God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What kind of relationship should we have with our neighbors?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If a Christian harbors malice toward another person, what should he or she do about it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Apply It**

1. What injustice or difficult circumstance do you want to commit to the Lord in prayer?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:** David's enemies were undermining his reputation and his work, so he turned to the Lord with two special requests: that God would hear him (vv. 1–2) and that God would help him (vv. 3–5). (Philippians 4:6)

God heard him and helped him, and He does the same for you today as you trust Him. You can rejoice in the Lord even when you cannot rejoice in yourselves or your circumstances. Trust God to be your strength, your song, and your salvation (Isa. 12:2). He is the faithful Shepherd who can carry both you and your burdens.



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**Lesson VI**

**Date:** February 11, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 29: 1-11

**The God of the Storm**

**Lesson Aim:** To understand that no storm is greater than God. If we trust Him, the storm will bring glory to God.

**Open It**

1. What effect does nature have on your everyday activities?

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2. What benefits have you gotten from spending time outdoors?

---

**Explore It**

1. What does the psalm summon people to do?

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2. How is the Lord described in this poem?

---

3. How does nature proclaim the glory of God?

---

4. How powerful is the voice of the Lord?

---

5. Where do God's people find comfort?

---

6. What does the Lord provide for His people?

---

7. What specific blessing did the psalm writer recognize as coming from the Lord?

---





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**Get It**

1. What have you learned about God's character from this passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How have you seen nature proclaim the glory of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How should we be involved in proclaiming the glory and power of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does this psalm encourage you to face the challenges in your everyday life?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Apply It**

1. What action can you take today to depend on the strength of the Lord rather than on your own abilities?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What could you do this week to "ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name"?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:** We should recognize when storms come it shows that God sat as King at the Flood, and He is still King! Here we find a call to praise God to His Heavenly Throng, for His Greatness and Glory and to recognize the Voice of the Lord is Pervading, Powerful and Penetrating by heavy thunderstorms; however, we can have a solace for the storm-tossed soul. The storms pass, but God ever remains the Governor in His universe and Guardian of His people. David may have seen a rainbow and remembered God's promise given after the Flood (Gen. 9:8-17). For after the storm there is a rainbow in the storm-cloud. He gives strength during the storm and peace after the storm. When life gets stormy, worship Him and wait on Him. The storm will pass, and He will give you peace.



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**Lesson VII**

**Date:** February 18, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 30: 1-12

**Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Death**

**Lesson Aim:** To give thanks to God when things seem bleak, knowing that bad times do not bring defeat to the faithful who put their trust in Him.

**Open It**

1. In what ways are you self-reliant, and in what ways do you depend on others?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When was the last time a friend helped you through a difficult circumstance, and how did you feel about depending on others for support?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Explore It**

1. What images did David use to describe how the Lord delivered him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did God respond to David's cries for help?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What instructions did David give to God's people?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What sinful attitude was David guilty of when circumstances were going well for him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did the Lord remind David that He was the one who gave David his security?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What caused David to lose his sense of security and self-reliance?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. To where did David turn for help?  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Get It**

1. How does our culture value self-reliance?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When can self-reliance be a negative characteristic?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is it tempting for us to trust God only during certain times in our lives?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How can we learn to depend more on the Lord, no matter what our circumstances?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Apply It**

1. What other person could you encourage with what you have learned about security in God?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:** Everything seemed bleak during the early part of David's life as his enemies were many, but we see that David continued to express his confidence and hope in God. It is that underlying confidence that is the rock of our hope. When we are going through difficult and challenging times, we must stand on what we know about God. God is good, God is love, God is just, and He will ultimately prevail, as will his faithful children. We are reminded in scripture that our trails are temporary and can never bring defeat if we will remain faithful unto our God. David captures the principle of enduring faith and the victory that will bring thanksgiving to God for His deliverance. We need to be mindful of this lesson in our daily lives, especially during times of crisis. David always returned to his God in times of crisis, and we should live as to always draw closer to God. Our faith in God will enable us to look beyond the crisis and move us to thankfulness for what God will do, is doing or has done.



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**Lesson VIII**

**Date:** February 25, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 31: 1-11

**A Cry for Help Part 1**

**Lesson Aim:** True faith is never alone, for it leads to love and hope which give us the courage we need to win the battle, whether the foe is within or without. To understand that God will give more Grace when the burdens grow greater.

**Open It**

1. To you, what's the best example of strength?

---

**Explore It**

1. Why did David appeal to the Lord for help?

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2. How did David describe the Lord in this passage?

---

3. What was at stake in David's safety?

---

4. What did David commit to the Lord?

---

5. How are the wicked described in this passage?

---

**Get It**

1. How is the Christian view of strength different from the world's?

---

2. When is it most difficult for you to trust in the Lord?

---



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3. What do people often do when they feel overstressed or overwhelmed?
- 

**Apply It**

1. How can you pray this week to help you through the challenges you face?
- 

**Summary:** God will never let us go through more stress than we can bear if we trust in Him. “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted [or, ‘tried’] beyond what you are able” (1 Cor. 10:13)! Though David’s trial was terrifying, so that he despaired even of life itself (v. 13), God gave him strength to endure. God isn’t into easy solutions. He doesn’t usually remove the trial the instant we seek Him. But none who have waited on Him have found Him to fail. “He gives more grace when the burdens grow greater!”

If you want to pick one word to describe our modern culture, that word would probably be **stress**. We have stress management classes, as well as many books and articles aimed at helping us reduce stress. Wherever you look, it seems that stress is staring you in the face. You get stress on the job, driving on the streets, highways, setting still at street lights, traffic and even at home. Believe-it-or not even in ministry. Somehow, we have gotten the crazy notion that if we follow and obey the Lord, He will protect us from difficult trials. Well, Stress is a fact of life, especially for the godly. Well, the remedy for stress is to trust in the sovereigns of a helping and loving Lord. David called upon God to deliver him. He wanted God to stop those who were unjustly causing trouble. Therefore, David made his request based upon what he knew of God’s name, or character. Because God is righteous and loving, he loves to deliver his people.



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**Lesson IX**

**Date:** March 4, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 31: 12-24

**A Cry for Help Part 2**

**Lesson Aim:** True faith is never alone, for it leads to love and hope which give us the courage we need to win the battle, whether the foe is within or without.

To understand that God will give more Grace when the burdens grow greater.

**Open It**

1. Whom would you describe as a strong person? Why?

---

**Explore It**

1. What defense did David have against the schemes of his enemies?

---

2. Why did David expect God to treat him favorably?

---

3. What did David anticipate in the future?

---

4. How does God treat the faithful and the proud differently?

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5. What final advice concludes this psalm?

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6. To whom are David's concluding instructions directed?

---

**Get It**

1. Where do we usually turn when we face overwhelming circumstances?

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2. What defense do we have against our "enemies"?

---

3. What kinds of "enemies" do you face nowadays?

---

4. What does it mean to follow David's instructions to "be strong and take heart"?

---

**Apply It**

1. What do you want to remember the next time you feel overwhelmed or overstressed?

---

**Summary:** David's enemies persecuted him, lied about him, and spread a net to catch him. Where could he turn for help? Only to the Lord! If the hand of the enemy is against you find safety in the hand of the Lord (vv. 5, 15; John 10:27–29). In describing his own feelings, David writes of the helplessness and hopelessness everyone feels when hated or rejected. But adversity is easier to accept when we recognize our true relationship with the sovereign God. Although our enemies may seem to have the upper hand, they are ultimately the helpless and hopeless ones. Those who know God will be victorious in the end. We can have courage today because God will preserve us. we must recall the great goodness of God which is stored up for his elect. The Lord himself will preserve the faithful so they can weather the storm in which they find themselves. The Lord delights in showing his preserving power to the weakest vessels. The believer must not be downcast, but he should take courage, knowing that his infinite God is much larger than the finite people who threaten him.



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**Lesson X**

**Date:** March 11, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 32: 1-11

**T.G.I.F. (Thank God, I'm Forgiven)**

**Lesson Aim:** Learners will understand the joy of forgiveness, the curse of un-confessed sin and the benefit of confession of their sins.

**Open It**

1. What feelings do you associate with repentance?

---

2. What's something you got blamed for or was caught doing when you were a kid?

---

**Explore It**

1. What joyful proclamation opens this psalm?

---

2. How did David feel when he had unconfessed sin in his life?

---

3. How did David respond to the Lord's "heavy hand" on him?

---

4. What assurance do we have when we pray?

---

5. How does the Lord protect His people?

---

6. What did David advise people to avoid?

---

7. What promise did David offer to those who trust in the Lord?

---





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**Get It**

1. What kinds of things prevent us from confessing known sin in our lives?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why should we confess our sins to God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What has motivated you in the past to repent of selfish behaviors or attitudes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does God always respond to our repentance?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Apply It**

1. What behavior or attitude do you need to confess to the Lord today?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:** The blessed man is the one whose transgressions are forgiven. Their sins are covered by the blood of Jesus who nailed our sins to the cross. The Lord does not impute iniquity because He carries confessed sins away from the believer. **Thank God I am forgiven.** David however experienced both physical and emotional stress when he kept silent and failed to confess. But once he acknowledged his sins and confessed to God, he was forgiven. **Thank God we are forgiven.** Mercy surrounded David when he placed his trust in the Lord and he was able to rejoice in his forgiveness. After receiving forgiveness and experiencing the joyful blessings that was his as a result of confessing his sins, he shared what he had personally learned from his own painful failures with other believers. **Thank God you are forgiven.**

We must as believers realize that whether sin is small or large in one's own eyes, in God's eyes it is an open rebellion against Him. We must not attempt to minimize our sin but should be quick to confess sin when we become aware of it. We must tell others that they do not have to hold on to the quilt of sin but can confess to God and be forgiven and experience the joy in knowing that God cares for them.



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**Lesson XI**

**Date:** March 18, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 33: 1-11

**Why You Should Praise the LORD**

**Lesson Aim:** Each person will commit to praise God often for who He is and for what He has done in your life.

**Open It**

1. What does it take to get you worked up enough to shout or sing?

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**Explore It**

1. Whom does this psalm call to praise God?

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2. How does this psalm call people to praise the Lord?

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3. How should God's people praise God?

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4. How has the Lord demonstrated His creativity?

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5. What reason do we have to fear the Lord?

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6. How did the psalm writer describe the power and sovereignty of God?

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7. How reliable are the plans of people in relation to God's plans?

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**Get It**

1. What outcome can we expect when we depend on ourselves?  
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2. What do you think our attitude toward our goals and plans reveals about our view of God?  
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3. What talents or abilities do you have?  
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4. What does this psalm say about the reliability of our plans?  
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**Apply It**

1. What plan of yours can you commit to the Lord in prayer?  
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**Summary:** As you reflect on the reasons you should praise Him. I am sure you will say something like the following?

- God's Word is worthy of praise. There is 100% no failing or flaws in His Word. It is right. It is never wrong or in error. We can take comfort in the solidness of His Holy Word because it will never let us down.
- God is unchanging and faithful. He will always do what is right according to His Holy Word & Ordinances
- Praise is due to God alone for He is the creator of all. When He spoke, we and everything on this earth, past, present and future came into being.
- We should praise God because His plans and purpose will stand forever. No one and nothing can change His plans.
- Praise Him for his Grace and Mercy daily.

Now take a moment and look back over your life to see what are the personal things that you will praise God for. Are you not happy where God has brought you from? Are you not excited that He lifted your soul from the flames of hell? Are you not in wonder of how He has weaved Himself through your personal history to bring you where you are today? Then give Him praise and shout His praise loudly. Each of us have so much to praise God for.



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**Lesson XII**

**Date:** March 25, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 33: 12-22

**In God We Trust**

**Lesson Aim:** Believers will feel confident that the Lord, their protector and deliverer, in their time of need will show up and show out.

**Open It**

1. In what ways are you more schedule-oriented or spontaneous?

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2. What are the benefits of being a flexible person?

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**Explore It**

1. Why was the psalm writer confident of God's protection?

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2. How is the Lord involved in the lives of His people?

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3. What happens to those who rely on their own strength?

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4. What conclusion does this psalm make about self-reliance?

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5. How does the Lord treat those who trust in Him instead of in themselves?

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6. What decision did the psalm writer make?

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**Get It**

1. Why do you think we so easily rely on our own strength rather than trust in the Lord?

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2. According to this psalm, what outcome can we expect when we trust in God?

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3. Why is it important not to trust in our own abilities or talents?

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4. In what area of life do you most need to "wait in hope for the Lord"?

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**Apply It**

1. In what way could you demonstrate trust in God rather than in a particular strength you may have?

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**Summary:** We can feel confident that the Lord is always watching us. The Word tells us that He looks down at what is happening on our planet. This should give us the security that God loves us and is watching and protecting us in case anything should go wrong. This should cause us to look more to Him so that the worries of this world can be avoided or diminished. God is great, and God is also good. His goodness is expressed in the declaration of God's steadfast love that fills the earth. The fact that God has an eye on us is reason for trust in His steadfast love. We can be glad because we can trust an unchanging and faithful God. Regardless of the plans we, government or nations may make, they will not be successful if God has other plans. God is stronger than all of these. We can be assured that God saves those who put their trust and hope in Him. Our confidence in Him should continue to increase as we put our trust in Him.



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**Lesson XIII**

**Date:** April 1, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Mark 15: 33-41

**Jesus' Death on the Cross**

**Lesson Aim:** To understand that Jesus loved us so much that he laid down His life for us.

**Open It**

1. At what time in your life have you felt most lonely?

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2. What is your first recollection of dealing with the death of a pet or grandparent?

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**Explore It**

1. What unusual occurrence took place as Jesus was dying?

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2. What do Jesus' words at the ninth hour reveal about how He was feeling right before He died?

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3. How did the bystanders misunderstand what Jesus was going through?

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4. What happened right after Jesus' death?

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5. How did the centurion react to Jesus' crucifixion and death?

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6. Who watched Christ's crucifixion from a distance? Why?

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**Get It**

1. What did the tearing of the temple curtain symbolize?  
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2. What difference does Jesus' death make in your life?  
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3. In what way can following Christ or doing what God wants be a lonely experience?  
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4. How does it make you feel to know that Christ endured such intense suffering for your salvation?  
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**Apply It**

1. When might you have to face loneliness as a part of following Christ this week?  
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**Summary:** Can you imagine the hours Jesus spent on the cross. What heart can penetrate its deep mysteries or fathom the depths of the sufferings of the Lamb of God, when He was obedient unto death, the death of the Cross! Nature bears witness to it by the supernatural darkness, for the One who created all things suffers for the creature's sin. And what a scene in Heaven, when God's own hand rested upon that One! Worship, praise and adoration is here more in order than an attempt of explanation. He was forsaken of God; and then He paid our penalty and stood in our stead in the presence of a holy God. Never say He was forsaken by His Father. People have taken this out of context to say that God turned his back on Jesus. God did not. This word forsaken in the Greek means to leave behind in a place, (i.e. a good sense) or let down. Jesus was telling the Father that every time he had called on him, the Father had answered him and never let him down. This time his flesh wanted the Father to do something, but the Father was not. Jesus knew he had to complete the mission that he was sent to accomplish, and that was to lay down his life for us. (John 16:32). Jesus' cry with a loud voice shows that no one took His life, but that He gave "Himself." And there was the rent veil from top to bottom (rent by God's own hand). Then came the utterance of the Centurion: a Gentile, confessing Him as the Son of God. The suffering of Jesus' on the cross and how he handle it, caused this unbelieving centurion to say, "This is the Son of God". The women are mentioned, who had ministered unto Him because the men had fled. The feeble women were there looking from a distance. They couldn't bear to hear the pain of Jesus' suffering, so they went afar off.

Aim and Summary by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.



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**Lesson XIV**

**Date:** April 8, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 34: 1-10

**The LORD Delivers His Own Part 1**

**Lesson Aim:** In the times of our testing, trials, or tribulations the believer must continue to *focus on the LORD* and not themselves.

**Open It**

1. What do you think is the secret of long life?

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2. What brings you the most happiness in life?

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**Explore It**

1. What commitment did David make?

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2. What motivated David to praise the Lord?

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3. From what did the Lord deliver David?

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4. How did David describe those who trust in the Lord?

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5. How are angels involved in the lives of God's people?

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6. What are the benefits of trusting in the Lord?

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**Get It**

1. When have you experienced God's protection or deliverance?  
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2. What benefits have you seen in trusting God?  
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3. How does this psalm encourage you to put your trust in the Lord?  
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**Apply It**

1. What troubles do you need to present to the Lord in prayer?  
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**Summary:** The superscription above verse 1 in your King James Bible attributes this Psalm to David and sets the historical setting during the time of Abimelech the Achish king of Gath who drove him away (1 Samuel 21:10-221). One hundred and sixteen Psalms have a superscription and all of them are part of the original text. The 34<sup>th</sup> number of Psalms bring in focus a theocentric view which makes God the center focus over all our interest and concerns. On the contrary, an anthropocentric view makes man the most important entity in the universe. With the help from God's anointing, David was able to place all his fears, anxiety and discomforts in this life, secondary to the True and Living God. In the first ten verses, David mentions "the LORD" nine times. This gives us internal support that the LORD is moving supernaturally in the lives of his children. Recall that the King James Version usage of the English word *LORD* was translated from the Hebrew word *YHWH*, which we pronounce in English as *Yahweh* or *Jehovah*. This is the proper name for the true God of Israel. There are at least nine biblical principles we can learn from this passage of scripture to help us focus more on the LORD in any given situation. (1) The believer must bless the LORD at all times in verse 1. (2) The believer must boast in the LORD in verse 2. (3) The believer must magnify the LORD with other believers in verse 3. (4) The believer must seek the LORD and wait on [Him] to deliver you from all your fears in verse 4. (6) The LORD hears us and will save from our tribulation in verse 6. (7) The LORD encamps about them that fear [Him] in verse 7. (8) The believer must taste and see that the LORD is good in verse 8. (9) The believer must fear the LORD in their actions in the verse 9. (10) The believer must believe that the LORD will provide their every need in verse 10.



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**Lesson XV**

**Date:** April 15, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 34: 11-22

**The LORD Delivers His Own Part 2**

**Lesson Aim:** The believer is given assurance that the LORD *will deliver* us from our adversaries and *will provide* our every need.

**Open It**

1. When was a time you narrowly escaped danger or death?

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**Explore It**

1. Who should guard against committing the sin of deceit?

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2. How does God respond to the cries of the righteous?

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3. What words of assurance follow David's instructions?

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4. How are the righteous treated different from the wicked?

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5. What will happen to the wicked?

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**Get It**

1. What does it mean to fear the Lord?

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2. What behavior or attitude does this passage advise us to avoid?

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3. In what situations is it most tempting to lie or deceive others?
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4. How can we guard against the sin of deceit?
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**Apply It**

1. What reminder can you place before yourself to take God's power and justice seriously?
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2. In what situations do you need to make a more conscious effort to tell the truth?
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**Summary:** This week's lesson focuses on how believers are to conduct themselves, especially during the time of trouble in verses 11-14. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, David gives his children wisdom on how to fear the LORD. The wisdom given in these verses can be broken down into three biblical principles. These principles will show us how to conduct ourselves in a manner that glorifies the Almighty God (1 Corinthians 10:31). (1) The believer must be instructed how to fear the LORD in verse 11. (2) The believer must not speak evil and keep themselves from deceptive actions in verse 13. (3) The believer must depart from evil, do good, seek peace, and seek peace in verse 4. The LORD expects the believer to be doers of his Holy Word (James 1:22). David switches gears in verses 15-22. The preceding verses stressed the how we are to conduct ourselves believers, but the last eight verses display the movement of our covenant keeping God. (1) The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous in verse 15. (2) The face of the LORD is against them that do evil in verse 16. (3) The LORD hears and delivers the righteous who cries out from of all their trouble in verse 17. (4) The LORD is a comforter to those who have been broken in verse 18. (5) The LORD delivers the righteous from all their afflictions in 19. (6) The LORD did not allow the righteous bones to be broken. This is a messianic prophecy about the Jesus Christ which was fulfilled at Calvary (John 19:36). (7) The LORD will redeem the souls of the righteous. This is why we ought to bless the LORD at all times. The LORD has satisfied our greatest need which is salvation (Jonah 2:9, John 3:16). Let the Church say Amen!



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**Lesson XVI**

**Date:** April 22, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 35: 1-10

**God's Care for the Righteous**

**Lesson Aim:** The believer can rejoice in the LORD because [He] will deliver us from the evil one and his adversaries.

**Open It**

1. How do you think you would feel if one of your close friends suddenly turned against you?

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**Explore It**

1. To what character trait of God's did David appeal?
2. What military images did David use to describe God's deliverance?
3. Against what did David need to be defended?
4. What provoked the attack of David's enemies?
5. How did David demonstrate his confidence in the Lord's deliverance?
6. How does God treat the poor and needy?

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**Get It**

1. How does it feel to be falsely accused or treated maliciously by others?
2. What should we do when we see others being slandered or mistreated?

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3. What's our most natural reaction when people try to hurt us?
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**Apply It**

1. What act of encouragement or help can you offer to a friend who has been falsely accused or "attacked"?
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**Summary:** This Psalm is attributed to David who wrote it under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit. The believer must trust in the LORD to fight all of their battles. This is the **first biblical principle** presented in this passage of scriptures. The LORD, whose proper name is Jehovah, is the true GOD of Israel who delivered David's ancestors from out of hands of the Egyptians (Exodus 14:30). The LORD had been gracious to Israel ever since [He] chose them out of all the nations on the face of the earth (Deuteronomy 7:6). In verse 1, David made a request to Jehovah to fight vigorously against those who fight against him. Jehovah had allowed David and his army to victorious over his adversaries in many battles. David recognized that it was Jehovah that delivered him from out of his enemies' hands. David gives us the historical setting by describing a battle field. He employed imagery of war weaponry to set the stage in verses 2 and 3. In verse 4, David requested Jehovah to put to shame and humiliate those who sought to kill him in battle. David not only asked for him but he requested that the men striving confirmation in battle that the LORD is [His] salvation. The Angel of the LORD is the [One] the Jehovah had sent to delivered David and his men for their adversary. The Angel of the LORD assignment was to persecute and judge David's enemies in verse 6 – 8. David closed this lesson by rejoicing in the salvation of the LORD. This is the **second biblical principle** presented in this passage of scripture. In verse 9, David said my soul shall be joyful in the LORD. This is because Jehovah is just and fair (Exodus 34:6, Deut 7:9, Lamentation 3:22, 23). In verse 9 -10, David's bones posed the question "Who is like the LORD?", and there was no response.

Aim and Summary by Rev. Joseph Ellzey Jr. B.S, M.A.B.T., MCJ



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**Lesson XVI**

**Date:** April 29, 2018

**Lesson Scriptures:** Psalm 35: 11-28

**Tell God About Your Enemies**

**Lesson Aim:** The believer must remember to praise the LORD in the midst of their trials.

**Open It**

1. What can break up friendships?

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2. When was the first time you felt betrayed by a friend?

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**Explore It**

1. What accusations did David make against his enemies?

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2. How did David demonstrate his compassion and willingness to befriend the people who later turned on him?

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3. How did David's adversaries respond to his kindness?

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4. How did David promise to respond to God's deliverance?

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5. What final sign of victory did David want the Lord to take away from his enemies?

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6. How did David want his friends to respond to God's deliverance?

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**Get It**

1. What can we learn from David's example about handling injustice?

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2. In light of this passage, how can you trust God more with the injustices in your life?  

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3. How can we demonstrate our confidence in the Lord when we are being slandered or hurt by others?  

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4. What can we do to rejoice with Christian friends when they experience God's protection or guidance?  

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**Apply It**

1. Concerning what accuser, "enemy," or other difficult person do you need to pray for this week?  

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**Summary:** David started this week's lesson about his experience with his adversaries. In verse 11, he declares that false witness will rise up and lay charges against you. We must not attempt to extinguish the fire with fire. This will be sinful and result in us sinning against God and our brother. In verse 12, David was rewarded evil for good. In order to maintain his integrity and fellowship with his Creator, David gave us five biblical principles on how to deal with his adversaries while fearing the LORD. The first two principles give us godly insight on how to deal with false witnesses. (1) The believer has a duty to fast and pray to for those who bring charges against you in verse 13. (2) The believer must have empathy for his adversaries when they are sick in verse 14. David held on to these two biblical principles and put them into practice despite his adversaries actions to destroy him mentally and physically. David did not rely on his own strength but posed a question to Jehovah. The believer must make his request and voiced his concerns with the LORD (Philippians 4:6). This is the third biblical principle. He asked, "Lord, how long wilt thou look on?" The word *Lord* in the King James Version Bible was translated from the Hebrew word *'Ădônây* which signifies Jehovah's sovereignty. Jehovah had allowed his adversaries to mistreat him, but David spoke to the LORD and patiently waited on [Him] to rescue him. The believer must learn to patiently wait on our sovereign God. This is the fourth biblical principle. We might gain some ground temporary by taking matters into our own hands, but we are not guaranteed the victory. When the LORD fights our battles, we can be confident that [He] will be victorious. In verse 18, David gave thanks in the great congregation, and praises the LORD among much people. The believer has a duty to give praises to the LORD in a corporate setting. This is fifth biblical principle.

Aim and Summary by Rev. Joseph Ellzey Jr. B.S, M.A.B.T., MCJ



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*Lesson Aims, Summaries by Rev. Joseph Ellzey Jr. B.S., Earline Franklin, Rev. Terrence Howard TH.M., Emma Stevens, and Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma(SBI) 2018*

All Questions from the Adult Questions for LESSONMaker

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