

BIBLIOGRAPHY – THE PSALMS

Christian Formation & Worship Resources for Individuals, Families, and Small Group Bible Studies of All Ages

Preschool through Primary Children

Meditating on the Psalms with Children

Building Faith - A Ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary

"Our goal was not only to introduce children to the beauty of the psalms but also to meditate on the psalms. Could we really teach children ages 3 to 5th grade how to meditate? The answer was yes!"

Based on six psalms from *Psalms for Young Children*, by Marie-Hélène Delval (see below). Visit buildfaith.org for more details.

Psalm 23, by Richard Jesse Watson

"Bestselling illustrator Richard Jesse Watson brings to life the beloved Psalm 23. Watson's use of vibrant color and detailed imagery beautifully captures the essence of the comforting words of David, bringing the King James Version of this psalm alive for readers young and old." - Barnes & Noble

Visit www.richardjessewatson.com for more information.

Psalm 23, by Tim Ladwig

Through this powerful series of illustrations, artist Tim Ladwig delivers the inspirational message of hope and rebirth found in the Twenty-Third Psalm. The words of the psalm, now thousands of years old, seem even more relevant today against the rich backdrop of the inner city. – Episcopal Shoppe.com

Visit episcopalshoppe.com for more information.

Psalms for Children, by Don Gordon

"Appreciating the diversity of the Psalms, I made an intentional effort to include all kinds of Psalms: praise, thanksgiving, lamentation, confession, wisdom, and trust. I have attempted to paraphrase these Psalms, using language and imagery appropriate for children, while remaining faithful to the spirit of these texts. Some explanatory notes along with some conversation questions are included in the back for those who might find these useful. My hope is that you will create your own special moments of reading and talking about God and the Bible with your own children, grandchildren, or any young person you love." - Don Gordon

Visit prospectivepress.com for more information.

Psalms for Young Children, by Marie-Hélène Delval

"The biblical Psalms describe a whole range of emotions, from joy and wonder to sadness and regret. This collection of Psalms, paraphrased for young readers, uses simple yet powerful imagery to help children express their feelings." – Eerdmans Books for Young Readers

Visit www.eerdmans.com for more information.

Where Are You, God?: Psalm 139 for Children, by Elspeth Campbell Murphy
Sometimes I Need to Be Hugged: Psalm 84 for Children, by Elspeth Campbell Murphy

Part of the “David and I Talk To God” series of paraphrased psalms, published in 1980.

“A paraphrase in simple language of the Psalm, emphasizing that God is everywhere and sees everything.” – Amazon Review

“This series of books takes the Psalms and translates them into children's concerns and situations. They generally use inclusive God-language and provide examples of girls and boys experiencing a variety of emotions. A warm and caring attitude comes through to the reader.” - S. Baker-Johnson on Amazon.

[Click here](#) for more information.

High School & College

The Psalms Overview, a video by the Bible Project

A nine-minute video that provides a very good framework/outline for an entire study for adults, college-age, and high schoolers.

Visit bibleproject.com/explore/psalms/ to watch the video and explore other resources for studying the Psalms.

A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society, by Eugene Peterson

“Tucked away in the Hebrew Psalter, Peterson discovered "an old dog-eared songbook," the Songs of Ascents that were sung by pilgrims on their way up to worship in Jerusalem. In these songs (Psalms 120-134) Peterson finds encouragement for modern pilgrims as we learn to grow in worship, service, joy, work, happiness, humility, community, and blessing.” - excerpt from Barnes & Noble.

Visit www.ivpress.com for more information from IV Press.

Adult Christian Formation Resources

The Case for the Psalms: Why They are Essential, by N.T. Wright. Harper Collins (2013).

In this book Wright shares ways in which the Psalms have been significant for him, ways he has found God in the Psalms, some of his favorite Psalms, and very briefly, his technique for incorporating the Psalms into his daily life. This is a quick and easy read.

Available for purchase in Paperback, Audiobook, and E-Book format from Harper Collins, along with a free downloadable Reading and Discussion Guide. (www.harpercollins.com)

Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Augsburg Fortress (1970)

This translation of Bonhoeffer's small, but succinct, writing on the Psalms calls us to pray the Psalms as though we were listening to Jesus pray these psalms for himself. Then, and only then, do we ask how do we pray these psalms in our own corporate and private worship. He covers various topics he finds in the Psalms such as Creation, the Law, history, the Messiah, the Church, life, suffering guilt, enemies, the End i.e. resurrection life. The book includes a short biography of Bonhoeffer, who died at the hands of the Nazis in 1944.

Available for purchase in Paperback and E-Book format from Augsburg Fortress.
(www.augsburgfortress.org)

Psalms: Prayers of the Heart, by Eugene H. Peterson. a LifeGuide Bible Study, IVP Connect (1987, 2000)

This guided study of twelve Psalms explores them through the lens of twelve prayer topics: Inattention (Ps. 1); Intimidation (Ps. 2); Trouble (Ps. 3); Creation (Ps. 8); Sin (Ps. 51); Salvation (Ps. 103); Fear (Ps. 23); Hate (Ps. 137); Tears (Ps. 6); Doubt (Ps. 73); Death (Ps. 90); and Praise (Ps. 150). This book is intended to be used either by individuals or a small group. However, some of the topics and questions will require hard self-reflection, which may be difficult to share unless the group has built a level of trust.

Available for purchase from IV Press. (www.ivpress.com/psalms-lbs)

Praying with the Psalms: A Year of Daily Prayers and Reflections on the Words of David, by Eugene H. Peterson. HarperOne (1979)

This is exactly what the title suggests: 365 readings which take you through the Psalms in one year. The daily lesson will include one to two verses selected from the psalm of the day, a brief reflection, and a two or three sentence prayer. Great for someone who wants to complete the Psalms in the course of a year, but may not have time for a more in-depth study. You will need a separate copy of the Psalms to complete the reading.

Available for purchase from Harper Collins. (www.harpercollins.com)

Reflections of the Psalms, by C.S. Lewis. HarperOne (1958)

Lewis introduces this study by warning the reader it is not an academic work, but written like two schoolboys (himself being one) trying to help each other with their homework. The Psalms contain difficult subjects, and Lewis tackles the hardest ideas first, judgement, curses and death, before moving on to laughter or joy, vanity or self-righteousness, God in nature, praise, and reading a second (Christian) meaning into the Psalms, which originate from the Jewish faith tradition. I found this book thought provoking and not overly difficult.

Available for purchase in Paperback and E-Book format from Harper Collins, along with a free downloadable Reading and Discussion Guide. (www.harpercollins.com)

Rage! Reflect! Rejoice! (Praying with the Psalmists), By Thomas H Troeger. Westminster Press (1977)

When reading the Book of Psalms, Troeger says, we are inclined to admit, “That’s exactly how I feel! I have not been able to say it, but you’ve put it in just the right words.” The psalms are not delivered demurely in a polite drawing room tone, but are often full of rage, complaint, anger, and also praise, thankfulness, and joy. Just as we are. This book is not so much a study of the psalms as it is an experience of living the psalms as a kind of prayer. Good book for individual or small group study.

Out of the Depths (The Psalms Speak for us Today), by Bernhard W. Anderson and Steven Bishop
Westminster John Knox Press, 3rd ed. (2000)

A readable textbook for the novice student of the Book of Psalms. Used in the spiritual formation program at the Seminary of the Southwest, it is indispensable for understanding the background of the psalms - when, where, and why they were written and how they were used by the Hebrews in their worship and daily lives.

Available for purchase from Westminster John Knox Press and other retailers. (www.wjkbooks.com)

Video

Bono & Eugene Peterson on the Psalms

Within this twenty-one minute video, Eugene Peterson and Bono discuss how they are inspired by the psalms. At one-point Bono asks, "Psalmists are brutally honest about feelings. Why isn't church music like that? We live in a violent and dishonest culture in many ways. The Psalms help us to address it!" Visit fullerstudio.fuller.edu to watch the video and additional resources.

As a songwriter it's very clear to me that Eugene Peterson is a poet as well as a scholar. He brings the musicality to God's Word that I'm sure was always there."

+ **Bono**, Grammy award-winning artist and lead singer of U2.

"Bono is singing to the very people I did this work for. I feel that we are allies in this. He is helping get me and the Message to the very people Jesus spent much of his time with."

+ **Eugene Peterson**, author, pastor, and writer of The Message.

Worship

Music of the Heart: New Psalms in the Celtic Tradition, by David Adam

“David Adam conveys with great honesty his endeavors to keep in contact with God through good times and bad. His wish is that through these prayers you will find your own way of expressing your hopes, fears, and love to the One who is always present, waiting to welcome us if only we would turn around.”

Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Worship, Edited by Martin Tel

This indispensable volume is the most comprehensive resource on the Psalms for use in Christian worship ever published. It offers a single-volume anthology of psalm use, covering the history, reception, and practice of the Psalms in Christian worship. The book contains all 150 psalms, most in multiple formats, and utilizes a wide variety of musical and spoken settings. It also provides complete musical settings for morning and evening prayer. Each psalm appears in its actual biblical text, including as responsive readings. This invaluable resource for churches of all traditions is well suited to congregational use, helping pastors, worship leaders and planners, and choirs bring the Psalms back into the heart of congregational worship.

Visit christianbook.com for more information.

St. Martin's Psalter, The Revised Common Lectionary, Arr. by Thomas Pavlechko

Uses familiar hymn tunes for Antiphons and Chanting tones.

Visit www.sjmp.com for more information and recorded samples.

The Emergent Psalter, by Issac Everett

For small groups or worship – the Emergent Psalter provides a collection of high-quality, liturgical music which does not require an organ or four-part choir to explore ancient music and liturgical traditions. Published by Church Publishing Inc.

Visit www.churchpublishing.org for more information.

Chanting the Psalms, Cynthia Bourgeault

“Chanting the psalms, or psalmody, is a spiritual treasure that is available to anyone who prays. You don’t need to be musical or a monk to do it, and it can be enjoyed in church liturgical worship, in groups, or even individually as part of a personal rule of prayer. Cynthia Bourgeault brings the practice into the twenty-first century, providing a history of Christian psalmody as well as an appreciation of its place in contemplative practice today. “Even if you can’t read music,” Cynthia says, “or if somewhere along the way you’ve absorbed the message that your voice is no good or you can’t sing on pitch, I’ll still hope to

show you that chanting the psalms is accessible to nearly everyone.” Accompanying CD provides instruction on basic techniques and easy melodies that anyone can learn.”

Visit wisdomwayofknowing.org for more information.

The Anglican Chant Psalter, Edited by Alec Wyton

Worship resource of one hundred fifty psalms in *The Book of Common Prayer* translation set to Anglican chant in the time-honored "speech rhythm." A brief introduction gives a description of chanting and the performance notes are helpful with the specifics of reading pointing.

Visit www.churchpublishing.org for more information.

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