

WEEK NINE DEVOTIONAL

Go to Worship



Focus:

destination.

This week is all about praise.
This week we travel with ancient pilgrims.
In worship, we'll explore Psalms of Ascent—120 through 134—songs sung while journeying to the temple. These psalms remind us that life with God is a journey, not just a



Guiding Prompt:

What has your walk with God looked like lately? What do you need for the road ahead?



Guiding Question:

What does it mean to cry out to God when I feel far from home?

Psalm 120 (NRSV)

- 1 In my distress I cry to the Lord, that he may answer me:
- 2 "Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue."
- 3 What shall be given to you? And what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue?
- 4 A warrior's sharp arrows, with glowing coals of the broom tree!
- 5 Woe is me, that I am an alien in Meshech, that I must live among the tents of Kedar.
- 6 Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace.
- 7 I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.



Closing Prayer:

God, I feel out of place—like I don't belong. Hear my cry and walk with me today.



Guiding Question:

Where do I really look for help when I'm uncertain or afraid?

Psalm 121 (NRSV)

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- 8 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.



Closing Prayer:

Maker of heaven, watch over my steps today—and remind me I'm not walking alone.



Guiding Question:

What does it mean to long for worship—not just attend it?

Psalm 122 (NRSV)

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,
 - "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
- 2 Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.
- 4 To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 5 For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 - "May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."
- 8 For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.



Closing Prayer:

Lord, give me joy in your presence and peace for the people around me.



Guiding Question:

Who am I tempted to trust instead of God—and why?

Psalm 126 (NRSV)

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
- 3 The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- 5 May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
- 6 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.



Closing Prayer:

God, remind me of what you've done before—and help me trust you to do it again.



Guiding Question:

How do I wait for God when I feel stuck?

Psalm 130 (NRSV)

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
- 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
- 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
- 6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.
- 8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.



Closing Prayer:

Even in the depths, I will wait for you, God—because you are full of love and redemption.



Guiding Question:

What kind of community does God want for us—and how can I help build it?

Psalm 150 (NRSV)

- 1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.



Closing Prayer:

God, help me be a peacemaker in my family, my church, and my community.

