



# UNSHAKABLY COMMITTED TO HIS WORD

WEEK OF 01/18/26

THE BIRTH OF REDEMPTIVE KINGDOM DIVERSITY

PSALM 87

## **Silence** (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently together as a group for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

## **Opening Prayer** (2-3 minutes)

**Read:** Psalms 87

## **Devotional** (30-45 min)

This week's sermon revealed that Psalm 87 is a missional Psalm because it gives us a view into what God wants His church to be. It continues God's call to Abram in Genesis 12: "I will make you into a great nation and through you, all nations will be blessed." All nations, did you catch that? That's what might make this a difficult Psalm as well because there might be someone who acts differently or has different customs that you can't quite imagine God being interested in.

I remember a time when I was chaperoning some seniors in Puerto Rico and five of the girls went to a food place to get lunch. I followed them there and the high schoolers tried vainly to communicate with the cook in Spanish to order what they wanted. While they were struggling, in walked three large men who looked tough and were quite intimidating. I was checking exits and wondering what I was going to do when one of the men looked at me and asked kindly, "Would you like me to translate for them?"

1. Can you relate a time when you too made a snap judgement about someone and discovered you were totally wrong?

*Psalm 87:1-3 – God is wildly in love with his People* | The opening three verses are about Israel and in particular Jerusalem. God finds joy and love for Jerusalem in this passage and names Mount Zion, which is one of the main hills upon Jerusalem is located. Imagine the early readers who were familiar with the area. It's easier to love and welcome familiar things that bring joy.

2. Note how the Psalmist says that the Lord loves the *gate* of Zion. What is a gate's purpose? Why do you think this metaphor of a 'gate' is used to give us a clearer picture of God?
3. Can you remember a time when someone "opened the gate" for you? What were the circumstances and what did the experience feel like?

*Psalm 87:4-6 – God is wildly in love with the enemies of His people* | Almost abruptly, this passage changes focus from Israel to other nations. Who are these other people? Rahab was another name for Egypt where they had once been enslaved. Babylon, Philistia, Tyre and Cush were all nations who fought, killed, and conquered Israel. Cush was often an ally of Egypt. Tyre was a fortified city that was never conquered. They all had some conflict with Israel and yet the Psalm says: "This one was born there." One commentary explains this in the following way: "They are [now] spiritually a native of Zion." What God is saying here is that not only His beloved Israel but also other nations, even nations that have attacked Israel, can be "Natives of Zion" or born into the family of God.

4. What does this fact teach us about God, His people, and their enemies?
5. Whose names give you "heartburn" when you think about sitting next to them in heaven? Do you believe that grace is spacious enough for your enemy or is it just spacious enough for you?
6. How can you pull yourself out of a reactionary response of judgment towards people who trigger you?

*Psalm 87:7 Let's Dance!* "Singers and dancers alike say, "All my springs are in you." | God is bigger than our fear of others and He gives us the ability to reach out and learn from anyone outside our "safe zone." A spring or fountain provides refreshment and sustains us. If our springs are in God, then we can look to Him for refreshment and realize that all of us have value because each of us are made in the image of God. Mother Teresa said this, "I'm a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world." This leads us to today's Big Idea: ***Because God loves His people – His global people – we are His city and our springs are in Him; let's dance!***

7. Who is someone you are afraid to approach when it comes to matters of your faith in Christ? What is a question you might ask to help break the ice? Write a name down and ask God to open a door to ask this questions.

**Closing Prayer**

Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things; Grant me this day some new vision of Your Truth; Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness; and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls; in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Share Prayer Requests** (10-15 minutes)