

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL 8-13

MONDAY, APRIL 8

- Read Psalm 7; 27; 31; 34; 52
- We tend to read the psalms as a collection of detached songs that have little to do with the rest of Scripture. Yet because they arose from real-life circumstance, they can speak powerfully to our real-life experiences.
- Read these psalms in light of King David's story we have been reading in I Samuel.
- If you are not distressed at the present, praise God for your current situation and pray for someone you know is struggling under oppression.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

- Read Psalms 56; 120; 140-142
- The psalms we are reading today continue to express cries to God for help.
- They also add another element – a cry for judgment on the psalmist's enemies. Such psalms are called imprecatory psalms.
- What do these psalms teach you about God? About your prayers and how you should pray?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

- Read I Samuel 25-27; Psalm 17; 73
- As you read the stories in I Samuel, notice the contrasts between Abigail and Nabal and between David and Saul. What do these stories tell us about how to handle conflict? How do you handle conflict?
- In the psalms, the writer was struggling with the fact that the wicked seem to be doing very well in this world. Yet he realized that God's presence was the only important value in the world.
- List the top five things you value in life at this point. Did God's presence make the list?

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

- Read Psalms 18; 35; 54; 63
- Today's psalms cry out to God for deliverance and celebrate when God brings the deliverance about.
- What are the word pictures in these psalms communicating?
- Pay attention to parallelism, the repetition of a thought to emphasize a truth or to express nuances of a thought.
- What sticks out to you as you read these psalms?

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

- Read I Samuel 28-31; I Chronicles 10
- The contrasts between Saul and David continue to heighten in today's passage,
- Saul's consulting of a necromancer shows how far Saul has fallen. Consulting a necromancer (one who calls up the dead) was punishable by death (Leviticus 20:6, 27), and Saul himself had outlawed the practice.
- The story also echoes the earlier foolishness of Saul when he panicked and offered a sacrifice himself instead of waiting on Samuel.
- Panic and fear can cause us to do foolish things. Pray for God's wisdom in your decision making, especially in areas that involve great stress.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

- Read Psalms 121; 123-125; 128-130
- Today's reading is brief, so take your time and carefully pray through these psalms.
- Notice their Godward bent, focusing your heart on the Lord.
- As you reflect on these psalms, consider how God is the great center of all life and the provider of all you need.