

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Psalms 95:1-11

Sunday, December 14, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. How important is music and singing to you? How important do you think music is to God? Give reasons for your answers.

Music and singing is a great blessing and joy to me, though I do not sing professionally. Listening to music meets my needs in a variety of ways, and when I listen to most Christian music I am amazed at the beauty and meaning that is God inspired.

Music must be important to God and us; otherwise, God would not command us to come into His presence with singing and the angels would not sing His praises.

2. How does thinking about God as the “rock of your salvation” give you encouragement for living each day?

God has promised to be the foundation upon which He will build our lives, and the Bible and Jesus’ teachings are the rock upon which we can build our lives daily as followers of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Knowing these truths can give us encouragement in the best and worst of experiences and times, and those who love Jesus know that even the worst experiences and times will not be able to move them from the solid rock foundation that is God alone. The followers of Jesus know that God has a purpose for their lives and God will work out everything for their good and the good of others who love Him.

3. What does Psalm 95:2 encourage you to do whenever you worship God and pray to God?

Realize consciously that I am coming into the presence of God, who is the King of the universe and my Lord, rather than just rush into His presence without thinking about the One into whose presence I am rushing. Come to Him first with a thankful heart and

words of thanksgiving. Praise Him, and sing hymns of praise to Him if only in my heart and mind. Come joyfully into His presence and join with others in the worship God.

4. Whenever anyone feels fearful or discouraged, what can you tell them about God that may help them by turning their attention to Psalm 95?

Psalm 95 reminds us that God is great, the great King, and the whole world is in His hands (from the lowest valley to the highest mountains); therefore, He holds us in His hands. God made us, and God cares for us as carefully as a shepherd cares for his sheep (if we will only listen to His voice and follow Him as our great Shepherd). God is the solid rock upon which we can build our lives, and other gods are as shifting sands.

5. Why do you think the psalmist tells believers to kneel before God? What are some of the ways believers can kneel before God without physically being on their knees? Why are these ways important?

The psalmist tells us to kneel before God because the LORD is our great King, and God is worthy of our allegiance, obedience, and respect. We can bow our minds and believe what God has said in the Bible. We can bow our hearts and will to obey the Word of God. These ways show God and others that we are one of His loving and faithful servants.

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