

Psalms 91:1-16

International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all 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 Discussion and 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. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Why do you think Jesus used the image of a hen when looking over Jerusalem and talking about the city before His arrest?

Jesus probably wanted His disciples to remember the promise the LORD made in Psalm 91:4 that Jesus would have fulfilled. Jesus was making another subtle claim to be the Son of God and He was willing to do the works of His Father. The LORD promised to protect those who loved Him (Psalm 91:14). If the leaders and people of Jerusalem had loved Jesus, He would have protected them, but they would not. In Matthew 23:37, Jesus said that He would have protected them often (only something He could have done as the Son of God), but they were unwilling (and did not truly love the LORD): “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!” Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed in 70 AD.

2. Think of someone you know who needs the blessings promised in Psalms 91. Pray for that person and for the opportunity to

help them. (This is a personal question and request.)

3. Read Psalms 91:1-2 again. What does the word “abide” mean to you in these verses? How does your understanding relate to abiding in God?

All translations provided, except the NIV, uses the word “abide.” The word “abide” means “remain.” Psalms 91:1, 2 in the ESV read: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will **abide** in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” The Psalm instructs us to not only “dwell” in the shelter of the LORD, but to “remain” under the shelter of the LORD and not stray away from the LORD. Therefore, I want to keep following Jesus all day and all night.

4. Read Psalms 91:9-10. What do people need to do so God can be their dwelling place?

They need to make the LORD their dwelling place, their refuge. This is a decision that each believer needs to make.

5. What does Psalms 91 teach about angels? How might this teaching help you?

Angels are real beings that that can guard us in all our ways and protect us from accidents and other evils. God has sent angels to be near me and they have in the past and will save me in the future from great harm, from accidents and situations that I never had knowledge of because they protected me from them. I need to thank the Lord Jesus for sending angels to me. In Hebrews 1:13-14, we read: “And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?”

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