



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Why God Tests Believers
February 17, 2019
Psalms 66:1-20

“For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried” (Psalms 66:10).

Most collectors would not want to buy a piece of inexpensive nickel silver jewelry that someone misrepresented as sterling silver. Without marring the beauty of the work, they might want to test the materials and workmanship for authenticity. Similarly, some may claim to be members of God’s family who are wolves in sheep’s clothing (see Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-30). Therefore, without doing what would destroy the spiritual beauty of their biblical beliefs, God will test those who claim to follow Him. God’s testing will show others and us whether we are true believers. Jesus said that we will know good trees by the goodness of their fruit (see Matthew 7:16-19). Times of testing will show whether we are good or bad trees, sheep or wolves. In times of testing, the fruit we bear or the habits we show forth in God’s family will tell others if they should receive us as true believers or avoid our influence. God designs our tests to help us improve, to help us become more like Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches us to study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15). God tests believers to help them learn where to focus their prayers and studies so they can become more obedient and grow spiritually. Such testing may not feel pleasant, but God

knows what kind of test is best for us. Sometimes we may think we have failed the test; however, God does not test believers to fail them. A feeling of failure can show us where we need to strengthen our faith, increase our knowledge of God and the Bible, and trust in God's power and presence.

Thinking Further

1. How can making a joyful noise to God bring happiness to God and to you, even when you do not feel joyful? How can you become joyful when you do not feel joyful?
2. Think of some of the reasons and ways you praise others. How might you improve the ways you praise God?
3. What does the psalmist say we should say to God?
4. What are some of the awesome deeds that God has done that makes God worthy to receive our praise and the praise of all the earth?
5. Why is it important for God to test His people?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.
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