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Open and Unafraid: The Psalms as a Guide to Life

Small Group Study: “How to Write a 500-1,000-word Outline of a Psalm for Use in a Small Group Study”

TASK

1. Choose a specific psalm.
2. Identify the audience for this small group study: young folks, older folks, mixed ages, highly educated or not, ecclesial affiliation or trans-denominational, multi-cultural or mono-cultural, all men or all women or all kids or some combination, etc.
3. Identify the purpose of this study and the amount of time you imagine you will have together.
4. Choose one question to open up the small group study (perhaps only for thought or that you want people to write down an answer to) and to frame the purpose of this study.
5. Identify 2-3 things you wish to highlight biblically about the psalm. What are things that might be important for the group to consider about the text itself? For example: where it is placed in the Psalter, key terms, key rhetorical or formal aspects of the psalm, key images or metaphors, etc.
6. Identify 2-3 things you wish to highlight theologically about the psalm. What might the psalm tell us about God or Israel or humanity or creation or ethics?
7. Identify 2-3 things you wish to suggest practically in light of your study of the psalm. How might we put into practice what we have learned? This might include a habit of prayer and worship that you might do together or individually. It might include a practical exercise that you want the group to consider doing, either during the group time or in the days following the time together. It could be something they meditate on, something they do, something they pray, something they live out, and so forth.
8. Write out a prayer that might sum up the purpose of this psalms study.

Learn more about *Open and Unafraid: The Psalms as a Guide to Life* at www.openandunafraid.com.