



Week 2: Present

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

CONNECT

- What do you find joy in during the winter?
- Can you think of a time when you missed the forest for the trees? In other words, when you missed what a moment was really about because you were focused on something else?
- What is God speaking to you about through his word lately?

INTRODUCTION

We've been laser focused on the topic of mission since the beginning of the year. It's important, however, to remember that the mission has an objective. Our mission spreads the news that Jesus died to bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18). The great joy of salvation is getting to be with God, and there's no better place to see this joy on display than Psalm 84. We reflect on the past to remember God's faithfulness, and we look to the future to deepen our hope. In the present, however, let us experience what the psalmist tells us—that nothing is better than being with God.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Psalm 84

- The psalmist describes God's dwelling place as "lovely." According to the whole psalm, what is lovely about God's dwelling place? Which aspect or image really stands out to you?
- What do you think "the tents of wickedness" represent for modern people?
- Have a look at verse 12. How do you think trust/faith are connected to enjoying God's presence?

APPLICATION

- Does this psalm feel true for you? Why or why not?
- The psalmist describes his joy happening at the temple, with God's people, in the practice of praise. Are you currently devoting yourself to these elements, or is something weak right now?
- Are there any ways in which you're dwelling in the tents of wickedness? What does repentance look like?
- Jesus is the new temple. How does the gospel deepen your desire for God's presence?

PRAYER

- Spend time rejoicing in God's presence like the psalmist.
- Ask God for a deep desire to relish his presence.
- Ask God for strength to reject the tents of wickedness.