

Greek IMPACT at UNC-Chapel Hill

Quiet Time

Packet

Hopefully this Quiet Time Packet will help you in getting to know God better. As you encounter Him in His Word may you be amazed by His love for you and His wonderful character. May you fall more and more in love with Him. And may The Word guide you and encourage you to walk closely with God!!

“How can the young keep their way pure?

By living according to your word.

I seek you with all my heart that I might not sin against you.

Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees.

With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

I rejoice in following your statues as one rejoices in great riches.

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”

Psalm 119: 9-16

Please use this packet in the way that it works best for you.

Do not feel like you have to do every single quiet time. They are purposely not numbered so that you don't feel pressure to “keep up”. The goal is to spend quality time with God consistently this summer, not to get a certain number of quiet times in. If God is speaking to you about something you read on one of the days, then stay there until God finished teaching you what He wanted to teach. Again, hopefully this will be a tool that God will use to grow you closer to Him.

Spending Time with God

Spending time alone with God can also be called a Quiet Time (we'll us QT for short). As we think about QT's it is helpful to remember that we are in a relationship with God that we want to grow closer. As with any friendship it is imperative that we spend time together communicating or the relationship will grow stagnant and eventually we will drift apart. We don't want that to happen with us and God!!

Why spending time with God is a good thing.

- 1) ***It pleases God.*** This should be reason enough. God likes it when we spend time with Him!! Imagine That! The God of the Universe wants to develop a relationship with you and is pleased when we commune with Him.
- 2) ***We receive benefits.*** By spending time we receive several things:
 - a) Information: We learn about Jesus and His truth as we spend time in Him Word. Before we can obey Him we need to know what He commands.
 - b) Encouragement: Jesus is there to help us through the ups and downs of life. He wants to be our source of hope, joy, comfort, etc.
 - c) Power: Jesus is our source of power and we need to stay connected to this power source. He will help us know how to live and empower us to do that.
 - d) Pleasure: Spending time with someone we loves is enjoyable.
- 3) ***Jesus had Quiet Times.*** Mark 1:35 says, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” If Jesus found it necessary to meet privately with God, surely we should too.

Components of a Quiet Time:

- Reading the Bible with the intent not just to study, but to meet Jesus through the written word.
- Meditating on what he have read so that biblical truth begins to saturate our minds, emotions and will.
- Praying to God: praising, thanking and adoring him as well as confessing our sins, asking him to supply our needs and praying for others.

What Can I do to Get Started?

- 1) Remember it takes discipline and time to incorporate something new into your daily routine.
- 2) Set aside time in advance for your QT. Pick a time when you are most alert and unhurried. (Often the morning is good before the day's activities get going.) Think through your week and actually schedule it in each day. Begin with 10 minutes and gradually build up to ~30 minutes.
- 3) Find a *quiet* place to have your QT. Find a place where you won't be distracted by roommates, friends, the phone, TV, etc. Also, don't have your QT in bed. Sit somewhere that will help you be alert.
- 4) Pray as you begin your time with God. Ask the Holy Spirit to control your investment of time and to guide your prayers as well as help you to understand what you read and to get to know God better.
- 5) Keep a notebook handy.. Write down ideas you want to remember and questions you may have.
- 6) Share your plans for having a QT with a friend. Ask him/her to pray for you and to encourage you in spending daily time with God. If it helps you may want to go with a friend and have your separate QT's at the same time.

When Problems Arise (Common Problems)

- *I know I should have a QT, but I don't want to.*

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the desire to spend time with God.

- *I don't feel like it.* Have a QT anyway and admit to Jesus the way you feel.

Ask Him to improve your feelings and try and figure out what is causing these feelings.

- *My Mind Wanders.* Ask the Holy Spirit to focus you on God and His Word. Find a place with the fewest distractions. Writing things down may help you focus. Also, having a piece of paper to jot down random thoughts can help you leave them until later.

- *I Miss Too Many QT's* Ask God to help your desire and discipline to spend time with Him. Ask a friend to hold you accountable.

Different Components of Prayer- ACTS

Adoration

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" Matt 6:9

Praise God for who He is and what He has done.

Lord I praise You for being so faithful.

Confession

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" Matt 6:12

Confess to God the things you have done and said and thought that are not according to His guidelines. *Lord, I confess to You my selfishness and also the hurtful words I said to my roommate.*

Thanksgiving

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving... Phil 4:6

Thank God for who He is and all He has done in your life. *Lord, thank you for always loving me and being with me. Thank you for my sister and our friendship*

Supplication

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Matt 6:10-11

... present your requests to God. Phil 4:6

Ask God to provide for your needs and the needs of others according to His will. Talk to Him about all the details of your life.

Lord I pray that You would help me find a job. Lord I pray that You would keep my family safe as they travel.

REMEMBER: Prayer is simply a 2-way conversation between you and God. It also involves listening.

Listening

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

Take time to quietly listen to God as He speaks to your heart.

Psalm 119- Meeting God in His Word

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm in the Bible. This psalm is also an acrostic. Each of the Hebrew letters are used to start 8 consecutive lines. For example verses 1-8, when written in Hebrew, all start with the first Hebrew letter, Aleph.

Read through the entire psalm.

What is your overall impression of the psalm and psalmist?

What reoccurring themes did you pick up on?

Psalm 119 - Read verses 1-16

What repeated words, phrases do you notice?

What does the psalmist desire his life to look like?

In what ways can you identify with the psalmist?

How can you hide God's Word in your heart?

What causes you to neglect God's Word?

How can you fight against those things?

Psalm 119 - Read verses 17- 32

What level of expectancy do you have as you read God's Word?

What do you hope to experience, learn as you spend time with God?

What do you long for most in life?

Ask God to increase your longing for Him and His Word.

How is God's Word your counselor? How can it be?

How can God's Word give strength and comfort to you?

Psalm 119 - Read verses 33- 48

What is the psalmist asking God to do?

Why is he asking these things?

How does God's glory/ reputation affect the way we live?

What words describe the psalmist?

How does speaking God's Word relate to loving and meditating on God's Word?

Psalm 119 - Read verses 49-64

Why is it helpful and important to remember God's Word?

The Psalmist doesn't turn from God's law when mocked. What situations make it hardest for you to continue following God?

What can you do in these situations to stand strong and not turn away?

Is there any area of life where you are being slow to obey God?

Talk to God about this area, asking Him to help you give it to Him.

Psalm 119 - Read verses 65- 80

How do you respond to affliction?

Can you think of a time when you went through a trial and God used it to grow you? How does this affect your view of trials?

What helps you trust in God's goodness, even in trials?

What affect does the psalmist want to have on others?
How is this true of you?

Psalm 119 - Read verses 81-112

What words does the psalmist use to describe himself?

What words are used to describe God and His Word?

What benefits does the psalmist receive from God's Word?

Imagine yourself walking down a dark path without a flashlight. Now picture yourself turning on a flashlight. How is God's Word a light for your path?

Psalm 119 - Read verses 113-144

What is the psalmist's attitude toward evil?

Why does he hate evil?

How is the psalmist affected by sin?

When we see sin around us, how do we react?

Psalm 119 - Read verses 145-176

How does the psalmist respond to persecution?

What helps you to stay true to God's Word during persecution?

What is the ultimate purpose of the psalmist's life?

Jesus and The Leper

Have you ever been in a situation where you knew someone could do something for you, but you weren't sure that they would? How did you feel, what were you thinking, what did you do?

Read Mark 1: 40-45

What do you know about lepers from this time?

OT references: Lev. 13:45-46 (yelling unclean), Lev. 14:8- (showing self to priest) Lev. 5:3 (unclean if touch them)

What are some things you notice about the interaction? Leper's attitude, Jesus' response.

What did the leper know about Jesus and what was he unsure of?

Which do you doubt more, Jesus' ability or willingness to work in your life? Why?

Share one thing that you would like to ask Jesus to do in your life.

Why do you think the leper didn't listen to Jesus' command to not tell anyone? Results?

Jesus and the Paralytic

Have you ever been anywhere where it was so crowded you couldn't move? How did you feel?

Read Mark 2: 1- 4a

Imagining this scene what do you think the friends' first reaction was?

Read Mark 2: 4b- 12

Describe what the friends did and how easy or difficult it was.

What prompts Jesus to talk to the paralytic?

How do you think the paralytic feels when Jesus says "Your sins are forgiven"

Which statement is easier for Jesus to say? Explain

What does healing the paralytic prove about Jesus?

Is there anything that you need ask Jesus to forgive?

Is there any area of your life physically or emotionally that you need Jesus to heal?

Spend some time bringing these things to Jesus in prayer.

Inductive Bible Study

Inductive Bible Study is a reliable, effective way to study the Bible. You begin by looking for facts about the passage, then you determine what it meant and then you apply it to your life.

Most Bible studies are written with these three type of questions. You can study the Bible and even write your own Bible studies using this format. See below for more instructions.

O.I.A

Observation- who, what, when, where questions; the answers to these questions are in the text. (i.e. Who is Jesus talking to?) Getting the facts “Paint the picture” of the scene.

Interpretation- why questions (they can begin with other words); you are trying to find out the meaning of something with these questions. The answers to these questions won’t be “obvious answers.” (i.e. Why did the people respond with amazement?) What does this mean?

Application- personal, apply something you have read to your life, ask questions that relate the main truth of the passage to your specific life (i.e. Who do you think you are more like in this passage?) What does this mean to me personally?

Pray and ask God for guidance

Read passage

Write down facts about the passage.

What is the main point of the passage?

Ask how you can apply this truth to your life.

Decision, commitment you want to make? promise to trust? Prayer to pray?
etc.

The following is an example of using O.I. A to write a Bible study. Why don’t you try write some questions before looking at the ones written. Write some questions that would help someone study the passage. Write a 3-4 observation, a 2-3 interpretation and 1-2 application questions. (Don’t worry if it seem hard at first, it is. Keep practicing because it is a great way to study the passage!!)

Jesus vs. The Storm

Mark 4:35-41

Observation questions:

1. Who were the people on the boat?
2. What was the weather like?
3. How did the disciples feel?
4. What was Jesus doing?
5. What did Jesus do about the storm?
6. What was the weather like now?
7. How did the disciple feel after the storm was silenced?

** Sometimes it is easier to have someone describe the scene rather than ask a ton of “easy” questions. Whatever helps “paint a picture” of the scene.*

Interpretation questions:

1. Why do you think the disciples woke up Jesus?
2. What was Jesus getting at when He asked the questions in vs. 40.
3. Why do you think the disciples were terrified after the storm was calmed?

Application questions:

1. Are there any storms in your life, externally or internally that you need Jesus to calm?
2. How can we have a healthy fear of Jesus and His power? Are there circumstances in life that you are having difficulty trusting Jesus with?

Try and use O.I.A for the following passages.

Spend as long as you like in each of them. It is amazing how much you can get out of one passage if you look at it for several days in a row!!

Ask God to reveal to you amazing truth from His Word!!

Mark 2: 13-17

Mark 7: 24-30

Colossians

1-2: Paul's intro.

- What do we learn about Paul?
- What do we learn about the Colossians?

3-8: Paul's thankfulness for the Colossians' faith

- What is Paul excited about in these verses?
- What are some other things we find out about the Colossians?
- Who is Epaphras and what role does he play?

9-14: Paul prays for the Colossians

- What is Paul praying for the Colossians?
(break the prayer down)
- What type of life pleases The Lord?

- How do we live that type of life?
- What is the difference between "growing in the knowledge of God" and increasing our knowledge about God?
- What part of this prayer do you need to pray for yourself?
Someone else?
- What are the benefits listed here for Christians?
- What impact does that make on your day to day life?

Application:

Pick one part of prayer and use that this week to pray for self and others.

Colossians 1: 15-23

15-20 Christ, Above All

- 1) What claim about Christ does verse 15 make?
- 2) What impact does that have? What if that were not true?
- 3) What is Jesus' role in and connection to creation? What would happen without Him?
- 4) What does it mean that everything was created for Him?
- 5) If we were created for Him how does that impact our lives?
- 6) What is the image of Christ that this passage gives?

21-23 Reconciliation Possible

- 7) Why is Christ's deity important when it comes to reconciliation?
- 8) Explain in your own words vs. 21-22.
- 9) What sort of faith does vs. 23 talk about? How does that look in real life?

Colossians 1:24-2:5

- 1) What is Paul referring to when he says that something is "lacking in regard to Christ's affliction"?
- 2) How does Paul describe the mission God has given him? What is he trying to accomplish?
- 3) How does Paul go about this goal? (vs. 28-29) Def. admonish

- 4) In what ways has God given you a mission and what does that mission entail?
- 5) What does it look like in life to struggle using God's energy? How do we know if we are not using His energy?
- 6) How does Paul describe a mature believer (vs. 2-5)?
- 7) The Gnostics taught that their secret knowledge was the key to salvation. How would Paul's description of Christ (vs. 3-4) protect the Colossians from the "fine- sounding arguments" of the Gnostics?
- 8) What distractions do you face that try and lure you away from Christ and His goals for you?
- 9) What can we do to refocus and stay focused on Him?

Colossians 2:6-2:23

- 1) What does it mean to continue to live in Christ? What does that look like?
- 2) What are some present day examples of philosophies that depend on human tradition? What basic principles of this world do we give into and live by rather than by Christ?
- 3) Paul reminds the Colossians of what Christ has done for them. What are some of these things?
- 4) Why does Paul remind them of all this? What correlation do verses 9-15 have with verses 16-23?
- 5) What is Paul warning them of?
- 6) How do we see this in our day and age? What rules are we still trying to submit to?

7) Define false humility vs. true humility.

8) Explain verses 20-23.

Colossians 3: 1-11

1) Share a situation where you really had your heart and mind set on something? How did these thoughts/feelings affect the way you acted and what you thought about.

2) What does Paul mean by things above and earthly things?

3) How can we set our hearts and minds on things above rather than earthly things? How do we know if we are doing this?

4) In what current situation are you facing this choice?

5) What reasons does Paul give for having this type of mindset?

6) How does remembering our past affect our present day actions?

7) What do the things we are to “put to death” have in common? Where do you see these characteristics played out in your life?

8) We are told to “take off” our old self and “put on” our new self. What are some ways in which you do this?

9) How does vs. 10 give you hope as you seek to put off the old and put on the new?

Close by remembering what God has done for you. Talk to Him about putting off the old self and putting on the new.

Colossians 3:12-17

- 1) Why does Paul begin by reminding us of who we are in Christ?
- 2) From the list of “new clothes” Paul says we’re to put on which is most difficult for you? Easiest? Why?
- 3) Is there anyone in your life that you need to forgive? When and how will you take care of this?
- 4) How does remembering Christ’s forgiveness affect you when you need to forgive someone else?
- 5) How does peace ruling in our hearts impact our being at peace with others?
- 6) What hinders peace from ruling in your heart? What can you do to let peace rule?
- 7) What does it look like for the Word of God to dwell in you? What benefits are there for this?
- 8) What can you do so the Word dwells more deeply?
- 9) In what area of life do you want to remember vs. 17- “whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”?
- 10) How does being thankful change your outlook on life.

Try each day this week to start and end the day by sharing with God 5 things you are thankful for.

Colossians 3:18-4:1

- 1) Describe the type of person that it is easy for you to respect and follow.

- 2) What are the particular commandments given to wives/husbands, children/fathers and slave/masters?

- 3) How do Paul's commands address our tendency to do the opposite?

- 4) Often people have a hard time with the word submit. How would you define submit. If it is "fitting in the Lord" can it be as negative as people think?

- 5) Give some real life examples where you have seen these qualities put into practice. (or not practiced)

- 6) How could the motivations of pleasing the Lord and not discouraging others improve your relationships?

- 7) What is your attitude towards work? How might verses 23-24 help transform your attitude or motivate you further.

- 8) Is there anyone that you need to love differently or an attitude that needs improved after reading this passage?

Is there someone in your life who you need to act more respectful towards? How will you give this respect this week?

Colossians 4:2-18

No one ever becomes a Christian by just watching how a Christian lives. An observer might think the Christian is earning his way to heaven by trying to be good. How could anyone ever guess how to become a Christian? Debating if what we say or how we live is more important in witnessing is like asking which leg is more important for walking. In this passage Paul shows how prayer, living and speaking are interrelated when witnessing.

- 1) When you think of "witnessing" what comes to mind?

- 2) What does Paul desire to see happen in vs. 2-6?

**God is at work all around us!!
How Can You Partner with God this Summer?**

Things to remember and do...

- 1) God is at work in the lives of the people around us.**
- 2) Ask God to reveal to you what He is doing.**
- 3) Be available to God and ask Him to use you in his plans.**
- 4) Actively trust Him as He provides you with opportunities to serve others and share Him.**

“If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves he should do it with the strength God provides so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:11

How can we be praying??

*** For God to draw people to Himself**

John 6: 44, 65 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. This is why I have told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.

*** For the Lord to open hearts that they would respond to the Gospel**

Acts 16:14 The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message

*** That God would grant repentance leading people to the knowledge of the truth, coming to their senses to escape from the trap of the devil**

2 Tim. 2:24-26 And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel, instead he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil who has taken them captive to do his will.

Who are the people that you are praying for this summer?

One idea is to make a prayer list. For each day of the week pray for 1-3 people specifically on that day. Use the verses above and others to pray for the people in your life who you want to see come to know Jesus or to grow in their relationship with Him.

Psalm 13 questions

- 1) What is the psalmist upset about?
- 2) Can you think of a time you thought God forgot about you?
- 3) What are some emotions that the psalmist is having, or that you have had?
- 4) What is the psalmist asking for? Why?
- 5) Do you have any “enemies” that you’re afraid will triumph? (fear, lust, laziness, failure)
- 6) Where do you see a transition in this psalm? What changes? What is the psalmist’s focus?
- 7) When we think about our troubles and then look to God what can we honestly say about Him in our lives?
- 8) What are some ways that The Lord has been good to you? How does remembering these things help when things are hard?
- 9) What is one thing that you are struggling with and need for God to show His goodness in? Ask Him to reveal Himself to you.

Manuscript Study

Manuscript is another way of studying the Bible. The text is typed out for you usually with just line numbers. You are to mark on the text with different colors and symbols to help you study it. For example every time Jesus is mentioned you can put a cross over the word. Try and study this psalm using the manuscript method.

Here are some things to help you get started. Look for repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, words you can put into categories, characteristics of God, description of psalmist. Also break the psalm up into paragraphs, labeling each paragraph. Title the entire psalm.

Spend at least 20 minutes (one time or multiple times) looking at the passage and marking on the text.
The longer you look the more you will see!!

Psalm 86

- 1 Hear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
- 2 Guard my life, for I am devoted to you. You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you.
- 3 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to you all day long.
- 4 Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.
- 6 Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my cry for mercy.
- 7 In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me.

8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours.

9 All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name.

10 For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.

11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

12 I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.

14 The arrogant are attacking me, O God; a band of ruthless men seeks my life-- men without regard for you.

15 But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

16 Turn to me and have mercy on me; grant your strength to your servant and save the son of your maidservant.

17 Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Questions for Psalm 86

- 1) How does the psalmist describe himself? What is his situation?
- 2) What is the psalmist's response to all this?
- 3) What repeated words/ phrases did you find?
- 4) What is the psalmist's view of God?
- 5) How does our view of God affect our ability to depend on Him?
- 6) Can you think of a time when God gave you "a sign of His goodness"? How does remembering that time give you faith and hope in present trials?

Use this psalm as a prayer, adapting it to your own life.

1 Peter

Background: This letter was written by Peter to Christians throughout the Roman world. The Christians at this time were suffering severe persecution & it didn't look like things were going to get better soon.

Read 1 Peter 1: 1-5

- 1) Have you ever been chosen by someone for something special?
- 2) What words are used to describe Christians?
- 3) For what purpose are Christians chosen?
- 4) How do these descriptions of you as a Christian make you feel?
- 5) What role does blood play in our being saved?
- 6) How does this passage describe our faith? How does this make you feel secure?

Write a prayer of praise to God for what He has done to save you.

Read 1 Peter 1: 6-12

- 1) What is the role of trials? How does this affect the way we look at them?
- 2) Are you willing to trust God during trials, believing He is refining you?
- 3) How do you treat your most valuable possessions? Do your actions, thoughts reflect the value of your faith?
- 4) What can you do to “take better care” of your faith?
- 5) What do verses 10-12 imply about the message of salvation?

Read 1 Peter 1: 13-25

- 1) What words from the previous verses are repeated here?
- 2) What is the word therefore in verse 13 there for?
- 3) What is the relationship between our mind and action?
- 4) How does this passage describe life before Christ?
- 5) Define holy. Name 1-2 areas in your life where God is calling you to “be holy”.
- 6) Name a time when someone loved you “deeply from the heart”. How did you know? Who is someone you can express deep love for and how can you do this?

1 Peter 2: 1-12

- 1) How much deceit, envy, etc. are we supposed to get rid of?

- 2) How would you define salvation as used in verse 2?

- 3) Explain the analogy of being newborn babies.

- 4) What is a “spiritual house”, “priesthood of believers”, “spiritual sacrifices”?

- 5) Explain the quoted verses in verse 6. What is the cornerstone and capstone both literally and figuratively?

- 6) Compare our past identity with our present identity. Which truth about you now means the most to you and why?

1 Peter 2: 13-3:7

- 1) Who is the ultimate authority in our lives? What other authority structures has God set up?

- 2) What do we gain from submitting even when the situation is unfair? How can Jesus relate? How does Jesus help us as we endure unjust treatment?

- 3) What would cause you to not want you to submit to someone?

- 4) What perspective does God want us to have with regards to appearance? What are your thoughts/ struggles with regards to appearance?

- 5) What do you think a gentle and quiet spirit looks like?

- 6) Describe in your own words how husbands should treat their wives.

- 7) How would this treatment impact your desire/ability to submit to a husband?

1 Peter 3: 8-22

- 1) How can you be a blessing to another, even when they insult you? What blessing might you inherit?

- 2) Is there anyone who you are not “living in harmony with”? How can you “seek peace and pursue it”? Think of 1 person and think of 1 thing you can do this week to obey this passage.

- 3) How does The Lord’s responses to good and evil impact your desires, actions, etc.?

- 4) What do most people fear? (vs. 14) How does being a Christian impact our being fearful?

- 5) Write out a paragraph explaining the hope you have in Christ.

- 6) Explain why the resurrection is necessary.

1 Peter 4

- 1) How does knowing “Christ suffered in his body” help you as you struggle against sin?

- 2) Define any words in vs. 3-4 that you do not know. What are some specific ways that you struggle with these things?

- 3) From this passage why do we need to preach the gospel?

- 4) How is it that God is glorified in all things we do and say?

- 5) In your own words, why should we rejoice when we suffer as Christians?

9) Is there any area of your own life where you are “walking in the council of the wicked”? Confess this to God and ask Him to change you in this area.

10) Where in your life do you need to believe God will prosper you and help you succeed as a righteous person?

Psalm 29

Background on this psalm. They lived in an agricultural society. They were dependant upon the rain. Baal was the idol people in this region worshipped. He was thought to be the storm and fertility god. For another story about Baal and God look at 1 Kings 18:16-46

- 1) In verses 1-2 what are we called to do? Define ascribe.
- 2) Why are we called to do this? How are we to do this?
- 3) In verses 3-9 how is the Lord’s voice described. Why is this important?
- 4) Why would this be good to know/ remember if you lived where and when they did and had Baal worshippers everywhere?

5) What temptation might there people face when their crops were dying due to lack of rain?

6) We aren’t tempted to worship Baal, yet we are tempted to turn to things, people other than God in our time of need. What need can you offer to God?

7) What blessings are there for the people who worship the King? How have you seen this in your own life?

Take some time to praise God for His strength and peace.

Because of the established nature of this deity in the preexisting cultures of Palestine and his association with fertility, Baal worship was a constant lure to the Israelites. Could Yahweh, the God of Sinai and of the wilderness, produce crops and assure a fruitful life in the land of Canaan? We observe in the pages of the OT a running conflict between Yahweh and Baal worship, a conflict epitomized in the story of Elijah versus the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:16–46). The question posed is, Which deity will provide the rain to break the drought and famine in the land? Is Yahweh equal to the challenge or will the vaunted powers of Baal, the storm and fertility god, be displayed and win the contest? The story offers a classic power encounter between two deities and their followers, with Yahweh emerging victorious.

(Taken from the Dictionary of Biblical Imagery)