

IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR THREE | SUMMER QUARTER
OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY 4

LESSON SEQUENCE

SUMMER QUARTER

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the ***Implementing God's Word...*** curriculum is to equip youth to put the truths of Scripture together in their minds and to work in their hearts, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON ONE	Psalms
LESSON TWO	Job
LESSON THREE	Proverbs
LESSON FOUR	Ruth
LESSON FIVE	Song of Solomon
LESSON SIX	Ecclesiastes
LESSON SEVEN	Lamentations
LESSON EIGHT	Esther
LESSON NINE	Daniel
LESSON TEN	Ezra
LESSON ELEVEN	Nehemiah
LESSON TWELVE	I Chronicles
LESSON THIRTEEN	II Chronicles



DEDICATED TO THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF
PEAR ORCHARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

LESSON ONE --- PSALMS

OVERVIEW

The final section of the Old Testament, according to the Hebrew Bible, is known as *The Writings*. These consist of books that mainly teach God's people how to worship Him and live for Him. They are spread throughout the second half of the Old Testament.

The first of The Writings is the Book of Psalms. Psalms are prayers, hymns, songs, and poems that were designed to train Israel how to worship God. Psalms is actually broken up into five books, and were mainly written by David, Solomon, Korah, and Asaph. They represent the best of the music of God's people.

Psalm 1 sets the tone for the entire Psalter. It contrasts the way of the righteous with the way of the wicked. Psalms 1-41 are connected by the theme of how to worship God in times of trouble and distress. Psalm 23 is the most familiar psalm in Book One, beautifully describing how we turn to the LORD in times of trouble.

Psalms 42-72 are mainly about teaching the worship of God to the next generation. The older generation must pass on the mighty deeds of the LORD. Psalms 73-89 paint a picture of the consequences of rejecting the LORD and His greatness. Psalms 90-106 reiterate the right worship of God because He deserves our praise. Finally, Psalms 107-150 hit on the themes of the restoration of Israel and their future with the LORD. Psalm 150 ends the Psalter with words of how ALL people are called to praise the LORD always!

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

The Psalms are not mindless songs with catchy tunes. They are rich theological lessons connected with emotion and passion for the one true God. They are pictures of the pain and suffering in this world, as well as the glory and joy that is found in the LORD. They truly bring refreshment to the soul as well as wisdom for the mind. Use this survey to challenge your students to make the reading and singing of the Psalter part of their daily lives. Don't let them pass over these books as just songs they sing in church. Encourage them to see that these songs are inspired by God and profitable for their training in righteousness!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Psalm 62:6-8
2-3 mins.

DRILL TIME

Minor Prophets
3-5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

Evaluation I
6-8 mins.

BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

Psalms
30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

Praise and
Worship
3-5 mins.



WELCOME

THE **WELCOME** SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET YOUR STUDENTS AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH A PASSAGE FROM PSALMS THAT WILL "CALL" THEM TO STUDY AND GROW IN WISDOM!

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. Open with prayer.

Listen to God's Word. **Read Psalm 62:6-8.**

⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ⁷ On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. ⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Do you believe this? Then trust in Him at all times!



DRILL TIME

DRILL TIME GIVES YOUR YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST. THESE WILL BE QUESTIONS FROM A PREVIOUS LESSON OR FROM THE SCRIPTURES.

Now, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned from God's Word. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *How many Minor Prophets are there in our English Bibles? Name them. Why are they called "minor" prophets? How does the Hebrew Bible handle the Minor Prophets?*

Call on students to answer.

Answers:

1. Twelve.
2. Hosea Nahum
Joel Habakkuk
Amos Zephaniah
Obadiah Haggai
Jonah Zechariah
Micah Malachi.
3. The books are smaller.
4. They are all put into one prophecy.

Even though we ended last quarter with Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, we still aren't finished with our study of the Old Testament! One quarter to go!



MIND-IN-TRAINING

Say: *Let's continue to TRAIN our minds how to THINK today. Remember that we actually do have to learn HOW to think the way God wants us to think so we can rightly understand His Word!*

*We have learned about OBSERVATION and INTERPRETATION. Now we need to go on to the next step of Bible study. Who knows what that is? **Allow answers.** It is EVALUATION.*

To EVALUATE is to assess the worth of something, considering its VALUE, its relevance, and its usefulness. We evaluate literature by asking these sorts of questions: Was the author successful in what he attempted to do? How well did he accomplish His purpose? Are his statements and arguments valid or invalid?

*Now you may be thinking: Why do we need to EVALUATE the Bible? Isn't it totally true, valuable, and without error? Isn't it perfectly useful, since it is God's Word? Yes! We must not treat the Bible as if it's just like any other book. Yet, in order to APPLY God's Word, we still must ask EVALUATIVE questions about the **specific** part of the Bible we are reading.*

So, while see the WHOLE BIBLE as valuable, it is essential to examine specific parts of it for its present usefulness and validity. For example, let's say you are reading from Leviticus and you come to Leviticus 20:19.
Read it.

Leviticus 20:9 (ESV)

⁹ For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him.

*Is this particular Old Testament law valid today? No! So, this verse was extremely useful for the Israelites, but nor as useful for us today. But, there is a part of this verse that is certainly valuable for us today. What is it? **Allow answers.** Yes, it is still sinful for children to disrespect their parents! So while the consequence no longer stands, the Biblical principle of honoring our parents is still essential. This is the process of EVALUATION!*

More next time...

THE **MIND-IN-TRAINING** SECTION IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS TO LEARN TO THINK.

THIS ELEMENT TEACHES A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE MIND AS WELL AS BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS.



BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

THE **BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION** TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT TAKES THE STUDENT ALL THROUGH GOD'S WORD, SYSTEMATICALLY TYING IT TOGETHER TO BUILD A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF **DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS.**

THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Introduction: *We will now begin our survey of the last section of the Old Testament—"The Writings." The Writings complete the Old Testament by teaching God's people how to live in light of who God is and ALL that He has done for them. The first book we will survey is the familiar book of PSALMS. The Psalms represent the best prayers, hymns, and songs that Israel produced. As they are included in the Bible, they too were inspired by God. The Psalms are actually divided into five different books, each with its own major theme. We will read just a psalm or two from each book.*

Go to Psalm 1. **Read Psalm 1.**

¹ Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Discussion: *Psalm 1 sets the tone for the entire Book of Psalms. What is contrasted by the Psalmist? **Allow answers.** It contrasts the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked. If you think about it, there are only two ways to live: Walking with God or running away from God.*

Summary: *Book One of the Psalms goes from Psalms 1-41. Its general theme is how to worship God in times of struggle. Just glance at some of the headings of the psalms as you flip through these chapters: "Save me, O God." "Lead me in your righteousness." "Deliver my life." The most familiar Psalm in this section is Psalm 23. Who can recite it by memory for me? **Allow answers.***

Now turn to Psalm 66. **Read Psalm 66.**

¹ Shout for joy to God, all the earth; ² sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! ³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. ⁴ All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name." ⁵ Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. ⁶ He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, ⁷ who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let



not the rebellious exalt themselves. ⁸ Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, ⁹ who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip. ¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. ¹¹ You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; ¹² you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance. ¹³ I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you, ¹⁴ that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. ¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. ¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. ¹⁷ I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. ¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. ¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. ²⁰ Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

Discussion: *Psalm 42-72 include praise songs that are intended to teach the next generation how to worship God. Many of the psalms were written by David, but others are attributed to Korah, Asaph, and Solomon. As you scan through these chapters, you will notice that David's psalms model proper worship to Israel, while those written by the others are focused more on Israel's relationship with God. The next generation must be taught the history of God's mighty acts as well as how to serve Him with all their heart.*

Go to *Psalm 70*. **Read Psalm 70.**

Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me! ² Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life! Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt! ³ Let them turn back because of their shame who say, "Aha, Aha!" ⁴ May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" ⁵ But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

Discussion: *There are about a dozen IMPRECATORY psalms in the Psalter—Psalm 70 is one of them. These are prayers that God will bring "curses" upon their enemies.*

Now, turn to *Psalm 78*. **Read Psalm 78:1-8.**

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the

THIS **SIDEBAR** FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION MAY ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR FROM TIME TO TIME.



words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; ⁸ and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Discussion: *So, what is the first part of Psalm 78 about? Allow answers. The Psalmist is proclaiming the importance of passing on a godly heritage to the next generation. Parents are responsible to teach their children all of God's ways. As several of the other psalms speak to, this doesn't always mean that Godly parents will produce Godly children. The next generation may reject the LORD, which will bring great consequences. Psalms 73-89 contrast the steadfast love and mercy of God with the hardened hearts of Israel.*

Go to Psalm 91. **Read Psalm 91.**

¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴ He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. ⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸ You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge— ¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹² On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. ¹⁴ "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. ¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him;



I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Discussion: *What is Psalm 91 about? Allow answers.* It teaches us how the LORD is our strength and protector. Psalms 90-106 are wonderful songs of worship, magnifying God’s holiness and sovereignty. They also highlight our responsibility to wait on the LORD and trust in His sovereign love.

Go to Psalm 119. **Read Psalm 119:1-16.**

¹ Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! ² Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, ³ who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! ⁴ You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. ⁵ Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! ⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. ⁸ I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me! ⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! ¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ¹² Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! ¹³ With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. ¹⁴ In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. ¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. ¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Discussion: *Psalm 119 is our longest psalm. It is an acrostic poem focused on the majesty of God’s law. Psalms 107-150 teach us about the right worship of God as well as the restoration of God’s people to Himself. Israel will only enjoy a right relationship with the LORD if they follow His ways.*

Let’s end with Psalm 150. **Read Psalm 150.**

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! ² Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ³ Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! ⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! ⁵ Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!





Conclusion: *This psalm may be familiar to you. It's the perfect way to close this book of songs and hymns. Psalm 1 opened with the way of the righteous in contrast with the way of the wicked. Psalm 150 is an "inclusio" which demonstrates that ALL people and things are created to worship the LORD. In the end, this life is all about God! He deserves all the glory and all of our worship. God's people are called to live a God-centered life!*



MIND-IN-ACTION

Each week, we will end our time together with a MIND-IN-ACTION section. Often times, our minds are "Missing in Action!" It is vital you and I put what we learn from God's Word into action so we are DOERS of the Word, and not hearers only.

So, here is my challenge to you as we close today:

Sing a Psalm to the LORD every week.

Some people read a psalm a day, which is also a great idea! But instead of just reading the psalms, why not sing them to the LORD? I know, you may not know the music to many of them, but you could use your own tune instead! Singing the psalms helps to impress into our minds the truths of God's Word!

And the second part of my challenge is this:

Commit to worship God HIS way.

When we go to church and engage in corporate worship, it is tempting to see it as our own time instead of the LORD's. We want to sing songs we like to sing! We want to have a worship service we enjoy! But worship is all about giving praise and honor to God, in the way He wants to be worshiped. Focus on WHO you worship when you come to worship each week.

Close in prayer.

THE **MIND-IN-ACTION** SECTION IS DESIGNED TO MOVE YOUR STUDENTS TO ACTION. AS THEIR MINDS GROW IN KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO GROW IN WISDOM. THEY WILL NEVER TRULY LEARN IF THEY DON'T PUT WHAT THEY HAVE STUDIED INTO PASSIONATE ACTION!