


6 days in

Psalm 111

with Lisa Baker





In his outstanding book and teaching series, “Learning to Love the Psalms,” theologian W. Robert Godfrey says several features of the Psalms have been especially attractive to him, including the beauty of the language. “The more you dig into the Psalter, the more you discover. Like all great poetry, the Psalms are like a mine with ever new depths to reach and ever more gold to find. They reward abundantly whatever effort we make to know them better.”

No psalm, whether long or short, fails to deliver on that promise, for they are the very words of God. Psalm 111 is no exception as it provides the worshiper a God-given template to praise Him. We have divided this psalm into six parts to discover its meaning and how we may apply what God intends for us through it. You may make this a six day or a six-week study. Before we get started, let’s pray:

Father, as I begin this study of Your Word found in Psalm 111, please give me wisdom as You grow me in the grace and knowledge of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For it’s in His name I pray. Amen.

Day 1 – Praising the Lord

“Praise the LORD!

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.”*

(Psalm 111:1)

The psalmist begins with a shout of praise to the Lord. The Bible rarely uses exclamation marks, so when we see one in Scripture, we know it’s emphatic. Not only does the psalmist seek to praise the Lord, but he wants everyone else to join him in a praise of thanksgiving to the Lord.

There is no shortage of reasons to praise and thank God, and for that purpose alone we can praise Him with our

whole heart. We are to share our praise, not keep it to ourselves, and invite other believers to join us in praising God.

Reflection and Application

1. What do you think it means to thank God with your whole heart?
2. The first line of this psalm is a command. What does it reveal to you about thankfulness to God?
3. How do you praise God?

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for Who You are. Help me to love you and always thank You with my whole heart. Help me to praise You with my brothers and sisters in Your church.

Amen.

For Further Study: Psalm 106:1, 48, Romans 15:9, 11, Philippians 4:8


Day 2 – The Lord’s Works

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.
Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.”*

Psalm 111:2-3

The psalmist continues praising God by highlighting God’s works, which he describes as great. His works are all great in magnitude, quantity, intensity, and importance. His works are incomparable. The writer says God’s work is full of splendor and majesty and they reveal His righteousness (everything He does is right).





The psalmist interjects a habit of those who delight in God's works – they study them. Keeping the rules of the Lord brings great delight to all who keep (observe/obey) them (Psalm 19:1, 11). This is a call for all who love the Lord to love His works and love and obey His Word, too.

Reflection and Application

1. How do we learn about God's works?
2. Psalm 111 tells us God's righteousness endures forever. What does it mean for righteousness to endure?
3. Which of God's works will you praise Him for this day?

Prayer

Father God,

Help me to study Your Word and Your works as befits Your righteousness as I clothe myself in Your full armor won for me by the Lord Jesus. (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Amen.

For Further Study: Psalm 19, Psalm 119, Matthew 6:33

Day 3 – Remembering the Lord's Works

“He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.”
(Psalm 111:4-6)

As we look at this portion of the psalm, we see in verse 4 God's redemption of Israel from Egypt. The psalm alludes to the Exodus, God's provision of manna in the wilderness (v. 5), and the conquest of Canaan (v. 6).



God doesn't want His wondrous works to be forgotten, so in His grace and mercy He makes sure they are remembered. He was and remains the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that fills both, including His creation and His Word. All praise belongs to Him "who owns the cattle on a thousand hills" (Psalm 50:10).

And yet our Creator does not distance Himself from us; He provides our food and He never forget His covenants. He doesn't hide His power, and in Christ is the inheritance of those who fear Him (Psalm 2:8; Acts 13:19; Ephesians 1:11-14).

Reflection and Application

1. How have you enjoyed God's grace and mercy this day? (Grace is an undeserved gift; mercy means He keeps us from deserved wrath.)
2. How does God make sure His wondrous works are remembered?
3. How has the Lord provided for you (both your physical and spiritual needs)?

Prayer

*Lord God,
Thank You for calling me to You through the Lord Jesus Christ. Your works are wonderful to behold and I thank you for always showing us Your grace and mercy and for the wonderful inheritance to come (1 John 5:11-13).
Amen.*

For Further Study: Colossians 1:12, Colossians 3:24, Hebrews 9:15

Day 4 – The Lord’s Precepts

“The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.”

(Psalm 111:7-8)

These verses allude to the giving of the Law.

God can never act counter to His character; in all His ways He is faithful and just. As such, His precepts (laws, commandments) are trustworthy to His nature. His precepts stand forever because God never changes (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 6:17; 13:8).

It’s our responsibility to be faithful to obey what He commands in His word. Another caveat is we are to be upright, which means we are to obey with godly and holy motives.

Reflection and Application

1. What does it mean that God never changes?
2. How can we live a holy life?
3. What is one work of God that has impacted you today?

Prayer

Lord God,

I am in awe of You, for You never change. Thank You for being faithful and just. Help me to live a faithful and upright life.

Amen.

For Further Study: Psalm 119, Acts 1:2

Day 5 – The Lord’s Redemption

*“He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.*

Holy and awesome is His name!”

(Psalm 111:9)

Part of God’s greatness is His work of salvation (redemption; the focus of verses 4-9). Verse 9 references the freedom Israel experienced when God released them from the yoke of Egyptian slavery. He then established His Law for the people (which set the terms for them to “choose life,” Deuteronomy 30:19).

Because of Who He is, what He has done, and how His covenant stands forever, His name — YHWH — is holy and awesome. He is worthy of all praise and honor. And because Jesus is God, He sets all who call Him Lord free from the bondage to sin (John 8:32).

Reflection and Application

1. Explain how Jesus Christ fulfills the law and releases us from spiritual darkness and bondage to sin.
2. Have you ever used the word “awesome” to describe anything or anyone besides God? Using a Bible dictionary, look up the definition of awesome and explain why only God deserves to be called awesome.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You alone are awesome. Help me reflect You in everything I do. Thank You for saving me for Your glory and purposes. Help me to live a holy life.

Amen.

For Further Study: Exodus 16 & 20, Joshua 1, Heb. 3:7-4:13



Day 6 – Revering the Lord

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!”*

(Psalm 111:10)

Knowing how God redeemed and provided for the Israelites after Egyptian slavery inspires awe in us—reverent and fearful awe. This then gives us wisdom into His character and how we are to live as His people, as servants and ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). If we fear the Lord, we are co-heirs of the covenant (now in Christ), and He will provide for all our needs.

Conversely, reading of the Israelites’ rebellion and rejection of God’s laws and the dreadful consequences should also cause us to fear Him. Fear of the Lord is the beginning; from that fear comes wisdom to faithfully follow Him. We will “enter His rest” when we obey Him (Hebrews 4:3) and we, along with all the saints, will praise Him forever!

Reflection and Application

1. Read Acts 9:31. How does the fear of the Lord build up the church?
2. James 1:5 tells us to ask the Lord for wisdom, and He will give it “generously to all without reproach.” What happens if we ask with doubt?
3. Knowing His praise will last forever, what does the Bible tell us that will look like in heaven?

Prayer

Father God,

Your Word tells me to fear You. I fear You because You tell me to, and because You alone are awesome and You hold our lives in Your very hand — for our good and for Your glory. Thank You for rescuing us so we may come before You in reverent fear and awe.

Amen.

For Further Study: Job 28:28, Proverbs 1:7. Acts 9:31

174 words comprise Psalm 111. 174 words of praise, thanksgiving, highlights of God's works, His promises, His redemptive works, and our response and responsibility to fear Him and gain wisdom through the words of this psalm (and all His Word). All that truth packed into 174 words, and all for His glory and for our good. For it is good for us to give God all the praise.

If you are so inclined, write out a psalm (song) of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. Maybe post it somewhere you can see it each morning, so your day begins with thanksgiving to our Almighty, loving Father.

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