



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

*Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People*

*Module 4: God Leads His People*

*Lesson 4: God's Desired Way for Israel—Psalm 1-2*

### ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Psalm 1 and 2 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

*How is this God's story?*

*How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?*

*How is this the world's story?*

### ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Word. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

#### **GOD'S STORY**

*What are some visual images, symbols, or phrases that God has used in your life to shape your faith?*

- The cross is a popular symbol of Christendom in that it reminds us of the sacrifice of Christ. Some find meaning in that it has a horizontal crossbeam, representing the relationship Christ has with humanity, and a vertical piece that symbolizes his connection with the Father.

*Why do you think God left specific clues about the Messiah who would come throughout the Old Testament instead of giving specific details?*

- God's greatest goal with us isn't merely information but a relationship.
- Jesus was not created, but was present at creation and was the One through whom all things were made (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17).

*How would you answer the question raised in the first line of Psalm 2—why do the nations rage and why do they plot in vain?*

- People in authority typically strategize ways to stay in authority, no matter what the cost may be.
- When godless people look for counsel from one another, even the best ideas are still godless counsel.

## OUR STORY

*Describe the type of person you think God should bless.*

*What do you think it practically means to live in the world without becoming like the world?*

- The righteous man is not afraid to take a less-traveled road, because he knows it leads to blessing, happiness, and eternal life. Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it (Matthew 7:13).

*How would you gauge the way your current routine of spiritual habits, such as reading the Bible or praying, is affecting your relationship with God?*

- Sometimes changing where you spend time with God will affect how you connect with him. If you want to get more out of Psalm 1, find a tree planted near waters and compare it with one that is far away from a life source.

## OTHERS' STORY

*Who are some of the people God has placed in your path that you might be an influence on them for God?*

- Jesus gave His disciples the authority and power to continue His mission on earth (Matthew 28:18-20).
- The Lord has given us a powerful example in what it means to reach out to all people by impacting those who are willing to be influenced first.

*Jesus often sent His disciples out in pairs to reach the world. Who in your life can you partner with to better pray for and reach out to the lost and broken?*

- You may not be able to get all your neighbors to come to your church, but you can partner with other Christians in your neighborhood to share Jesus with them.
- Christ didn't ask us to make converts, but to lead others to become his disciples. Likewise, He didn't leave us on our own to do it, but gave us each other and His very presence to accomplish the task.

## THE WORLD'S STORY

*Does it feel like the righteous are "winning" or that the wicked are "winning"?*

- When it seems like the ungodly are stepping over the godly over the course of your lifetime, it's merely a scratch in the timeline of eternity.
- If you know that God wins in the end, and you're on his "team," you don't have to throw in the towel today.

*What is one thing in the world that has strengthened your relationship with God, whether by challenging you or encouraging you?*

## PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

*Listen to my words, LORD,  
consider my lament.  
Hear my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
for to you I pray.*

*In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice;  
in the morning I lay my requests before you  
and wait expectantly.  
For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;  
with you, evil people are not welcome.  
The arrogant cannot stand  
in your presence.  
You hate all who do wrong;  
you destroy those who tell lies.  
The bloodthirsty and deceitful  
you, LORD, detest.  
But I, by your great love,  
can come into your house;  
in reverence I bow down  
toward your holy temple.*

*Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness  
because of my enemies—  
make your way straight before me.  
Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;  
their heart is filled with malice.  
Their throat is an open grave;  
with their tongues they tell lies.  
Declare them guilty, O God!  
Let their intrigues be their downfall.  
Banish them for their many sins,  
for they have rebelled against you.*

*But let all who take refuge in you be glad;  
let them ever sing for joy.  
Spread your protection over them,  
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.*

*Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous;  
you surround them with your favor as with a shield.*  
(Psalm 5)

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Exercise is a healthy habit that we may or may not be involved in. Walking, running, working out and so is something that people know is good for them. However, knowing what's best for our health and doing what's best for our health often stand against one another.

This week, make it a practice to do some kind of exercise/physical activity. As you do, take a moment to pray, giving yourself fully to God, and giving Him each moment of your day.

## BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

***Deuteronomy 26***

***1 John 2***

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. In the context of Psalm 1-2, consider the following questions:

***How could my relationship with God inspire others if I live it out and shared it?***

***Whose relationship with God is inspiring me because they are living it and sharing it?***

Consider other passages you might know related to Psalm 1-2 and read them this week, journaling as you go.