



**ENTER** God's presence

### Psalm 119:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the Lord.
- <sup>2</sup> Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart—
- <sup>3</sup> they do no wrong  
but follow his ways.
- <sup>4</sup> You have laid down precepts  
that are to be fully obeyed.
- <sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
in obeying your decrees!
- <sup>6</sup> Then I would not be put to shame  
when I consider all your commands.
- <sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.
- <sup>8</sup> I will obey your decrees;  
do not utterly forsake me.

- **Pray Thanks and Adoration**
- **Pray: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**, you call us to walk and act faithfully regardless of the cost. Give us undivided hearts in all that we do, say, and think, that we may walk in obedience, serve you willingly and be part of your plan to bring freedom and life to this world. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



**SHARE** life together

1. Where have you seen evidence of God at work in the highs and lows of your last week?
2. What causes you sleepless nights and what do you do when that happens?
3. What has been a surprise/strange 'coincidence' that has occurred in your life to this point?

**Pray for each other**

Week beginning:  
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

Worship series:  
**GOD'S SILENT SOVEREIGNTY**  
**#3 When YOU are God's Plan**



**VERSE** for the week  
**The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.**  
Esther 5:1b-2



**REMEMBER** this week

**God's saving purpose and life-giving plan is revealed and fulfilled through the intentional everyday acts of his faithful and obedient people.**



## LISTEN attentively

4. How did you go with the two things that God was calling you to do for others last week?
  - Who did you share your discoveries with and what happened as a result?

Read Esther 5-7 in your own Bible or online at Bible Gateway [here](#)

5. Retell the story in your own words.
6. What observations would you make about this text?
7. The story seems to turn on a series of 'coincidences' – what are they and what do they say about God's activity through it all?
8. What do you make of Esther's strategy in delaying her response to the King's repeated question?
9. How does Esther identify herself in her plea to the king and how does her identity play an important role in the success of her appeal?



## GROW deeper

In the Lord's prayer we pray: 'Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven.' Luther in the Small Catechism, explains what these petitions mean:

**The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.**

***How does God's kingdom come?*** God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

**The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**

***How is God's will done?*** God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

**This is His good and gracious will.**

10. You are God's plan? How did you feel about that and how does that change your attitude/approach to life?
11. God's kingdom and his plan come to fruition through his faithful people. But we often don't know in advance what our commitment to obedience will cost us. What has been the cost that you have paid for obedience?
12. When has a perceived unanswered prayer become a gracious act of God's providence in your life?
13. Esther's two banquets act as a frame around a great and ironic moment of reversal in the story. What is it and what is God saying to us personally through that?



## LIVE purposefully

### MAKE IT REAL:

14. How will you apply what you have learned? Where are two areas you sense that you have a part to play in the fulfilment of God's plan. Write them down and what you are going to do in those spaces/places.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

Who are you going to share your discoveries with this week?

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pray for them each day
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pray for them each day
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pray for them each day

Plan your weekly devotions or [download the Church Central app](#) for the daily [LifeWay Devotions](#)



## PRAY intentionally

- **Praise God** for his confidence in us to include us as part of his plan for the world. **Thank Jesus** for showing us that he can multiply and use whatever we provide to bless others just like he took five loaves and 2 fish to abundantly provide for the crowd. **Ask the Holy Spirit** to nudge you and show you the part you play in the ordinary circumstances of life to make his kingdom come here on earth.
- **Pray for your actions and the people you are going to share with.**
- **Pray for LifeWay Cambodia and the team there and for Pastor Mark as he heads over there, that God would use them to fulfil his plan for the people there.**
- **Pray for those who are battling mental health issues at this time, that they may know the presence, power and provision of God.**



## BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

**[Name], you are a vital part of God's plan for this world. Amen.**