



Let Earth Receive Her King

Christ, The King of Joy

Psalm 16

How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-path-to-full-and-lasting-pleasure>

<https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/superficial-joy-vs-true-joy>

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/how-david-prophesied-the-resurrection-of-christ/>

Sermon Outline:

Psalm 16

1. Recognize God's Worth. Vv. 2-3, 5-6
2. Reject Idolatry. V. 4
3. Rely on God's Provision. Vv. 1, 7-8
4. Rejoice in the Gospel. Vv. 9-11

Psalms 16

**The Lord the Psalmist's Portion
in Life and Deliverer in Death
A Mikhtam of David.**

10 For You will not abandon my soul
to Sheol; Nor will You allow
Your Holy One to undergo decay.

11 You will make known to me the
path of life; In Your presence is
fullness of joy; In Your right
hand there are pleasures forever.

1 Preserve me, O God, for I take
refuge in You.

2 I said to the Lord, "You are my
Lord; I have no good besides
You."

3 As for the saints who are in the
earth, They are the majestic
ones in whom is all my delight.

4 The sorrows of those who have
bartered for another god will be
multiplied; I shall not pour out
their drink offerings of blood,
Nor will I take their names upon
my lips.

5 The Lord is the portion of my
inheritance and my cup; You
support my lot.

6 The lines have fallen to me in
pleasant places; Indeed, my
heritage is beautiful to me.

7 I will bless the Lord who has
counseled me; Indeed, my mind
instructs me in the night.

8 I have set the Lord continually
before me; Because He is at my
right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my
glory rejoices; My flesh also
will dwell securely.

Discussion Questions

Ask a volunteer to read Psalm 16.

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

I. Recognize God's Worth. Vv. 2-3, 5-6

- 1. What does it mean practically to say, "I have no good apart from God"? How does this challenge the way we typically measure "good" in our daily lives?**

- 2. The psalmist speaks of a "beautiful inheritance" and that "the lines have fallen for me in pleasant places." How does viewing God Himself as your ultimate inheritance change your perspective on your current material blessings or difficulties?**

- 3. In what specific area of your life (time, money, attention) is it hardest for you to recognize and act like God is your greatest worth?**

II. Reject Idolatry. V. 4

- 4. What are some other gods or modern idols in our culture that people run after today in their search for stability or joy? How do modern Christians tend to fall prey to socially acceptable idolatry?**

- 5. Why do sorrows flow from idolatry? Why does placing ultimate trust in created things necessarily result in disappointment, and what final sorrow does that lead us to?**

- 6. What does the Psalmist mean when he says he will not "take their names upon his lips"? What practical steps can we take to intentionally reject the influence or worship of these idols in our lives?**

III. Rely on God's Provision. Vv. 1, 7-8

7. How did David take refuge and receive counsel from God? What does it look like for believers to take refuge in the Lord and receive counsel from Him today?

8. What does it mean to set the Lord always before you? How does consciously placing God at the center of your focus lead to the confidence that you "shall not be shaken" by fear or difficult circumstances?

9. Think of a time you were feeling "shaken." How did you (or how could you have) actively brought God's counsel to mind to restore your confidence?

IV. Rejoice in the Gospel. Vv. 9-11

10. As the King of Peace, Jesus calls us to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). How is the peace we receive from Him meant to be shared with others, and how does sharing it actually help sustain it in our own lives?

11. How does the certainty of Christ's resurrection (that He did not "undergo decay") transform the psalmist's hope into our guaranteed path of life? (see Acts 2:24-32, 13:35-39)

12. The psalmist says, "in your presence there is fullness of joy". How does the finished work of Christ allow us to experience this "fullness of joy" and eternal "pleasures forevermore" even as we live in a broken world?

Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

Psalms 16. When the faithful sing Psalm 16, they entrust themselves to the Lord and foster their confidence and contentment in his care. The psalm uses imagery from Israel's allocation of the land (vv. 5–6) to express contentment in this life, and goes on to look forward to everlasting life in God's presence (vv. 9–11).

Ps. 16:1–2 The Lord Is My Refuge. The Lord is the only one on whom the psalmist relies for well-being (no good apart from you, v. 2).

Ps. 16:3–4 My Preferred Company: The Godly. There is a contrast between "the saints," in whom is all my delight (v. 3), and those who run after another god (v. 4; idolaters, among whom would be unfaithful Israelites), whose practices the faithful will shun.

Ps. 16:3 the saints. That is, the holy ones. All Israel is holy in the sense of being consecrated to the God who is himself holy; this does not guarantee, however, that every member of Israel will actually live out his holy status, and thus the command to "be holy" (Lev. 20:7–8). Here, the saints are those who have actually embraced their privilege; these are the ones whom the faithful singers should esteem, and whose company they should prefer.

Ps. 16:4 The psalmist utterly refuses to participate in idolatrous practices (probably carried out by unfaithful Israelites). Their names probably refers to the names of the false gods being worshiped rather than the names of the idolaters.

Ps. 16:5–6 Contentment with My Chosen Portion. The psalm now describes the psalmist's satisfaction with the Lord and his provision. The terms portion, lot, lines, and inheritance evoke the allocation of the land into family plots (perhaps with an allusion to the Lord as the Levites' portion and inheritance; Num. 18:20); the song promotes contentment with the arrangements of one's life, seeing them as providentially ordered.

Ps. 16:7–8 Delight in God's Constant Presence. God's presence, in which the psalmist delights, is seen in the moral instruction he receives (v. 7), and it results in his assurance of stability (v. 8). The psalmist's heart instructs him during the night (v. 7), a result of deliberate reflection (cf. 1:2); likewise to set the LORD always before me expresses intention.

Ps. 16:8 Shaken. Cf. "moved," 15:5.

Ps. 16:9–11 Hope of Everlasting Joy. As in 49:15 and 73:24–26, here there is a clear affirmation that the human yearning to be near to God and to know the pleasure of his welcome forever, beyond the death of the body, finds its answer in the covenant. Peter cites 16:8–11 in his Pentecost speech (Acts 2:25–28), applying the verses to the resurrection of Jesus; Paul used Ps. 16:10 in his similar speech (Acts 13:35). If the apostles meant that David's words were

Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

a straight prediction of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it is difficult to know what function the psalm could have played in ancient Israel: the congregation would have scratched their heads in puzzlement every time they sang it. This puzzlement goes away if the psalm is seen as cultivating the hope of everlasting glory for the faithful, with the resurrection of Jesus (the holy one par excellence) as the first step in bringing this hope to fruition (cf. Rom. 8:23; 1 Cor. 15:23).

Ps. 16:9 my whole being. The Greek in the Septuagint (cited in Acts 2:26) renders this as “my tongue.”

Ps. 16:10 Sheol. See note on 6:5. Here it is likely the abode of the wicked. Likewise, corruption probably describes the experience of being far from God forever. These are not likely terms for the grave, since everyone singing these words would know that his body would one day die and rot.

Ps. 16:11 path of life. A master metaphor of the Bible: the covenant provides a “path” by which one walks to life in all its fullness (Prov. 5:6; 6:23; 10:17; 12:28; 15:24; Matt. 7:14); this is what the Lord makes known to his followers. To enjoy God’s presence, or his face, is the fruition of the covenant (cf. Ex. 33:14–15; Num. 6:24–26). The word pleasures is related to “pleasant places” (Ps. 16:6); the pleasure that he has begun in this life will continue into its fullness in the world to come.