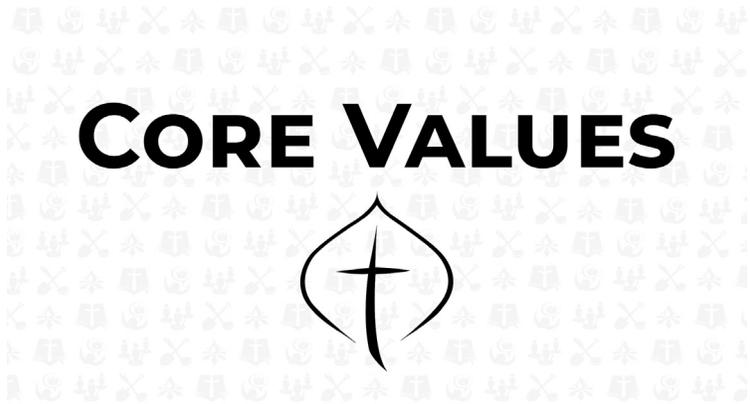


CORE VALUES

A CHURCH AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

**GROUP GUIDE
AUGUST 2020**



CORE VALUES



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Series Introduction |3 |
| Group Guidelines |4 |
| Sample Meeting Outline |5 |

| Week | Study Title | Page |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Biblical Truth // | 8 |
| 2 | Selfless Service // | 10 |
| 3 | Spirit-Led Living // | 12 |
| 4 | Inspired Worship // | 14 |
| 5 | Real Relationships // | 16 |

Additional Resources

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Additional Resources |18 |
|----------------------|---------|

CHRIST'S MISSION FOR THE CHURCH

*All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:18 - 20*

At the heart of community is the unity that brings them together. Like a family sharing a meal at the dinner table, we're strengthened by the ideas and ideals we share. Although King David wasn't painted as a perfect man, Israel prospered because David led them in worshiping the True King. He was called a man after God's own heart. By sharing Core Values – Biblical Truth, Selfless Service, Spirit-led Living, Inspired Worship, and Real Relationships – our hope is to cultivate a church after God's own heart.

This group guide follows the Sunday morning message by looking at the writings of King David in the book of Psalms. Each session includes one or more psalms that speak to the Core Value of the week. So join us in digging into the values that both Jesus and David exemplified and discovering how you can live the Core Values of the Bible.

SERIES INTRODUCTION

GROUP GUIDELINES

Ground Rules

Here are some guidelines for your gatherings.

- **Growing real relationships.** One of the central purposes of CCW groups is to help in the growth of real relationships. These relationships are formed through common mission, application of God's Word, authentic conversation, and time together. Don't get overly focused on one area to the detriment of the others!
- **Confidentiality.** For authenticity to thrive, what is shared during group time should be kept confidential.
- **Start on time - and end on time.** We want to respect the time of everyone involved. For that reason, our group will start on time and end on time.
- **Be a part of the discussion.** If you want to grow, get involved in the discussion. Your perspective is valuable!
- **Be real.** Authenticity and transparency are two keys to authentic life change. We ask that those participating in our group are real with who they are and their walk with God.
- **It's alright to disagree.** We're not always going to see eye-to-eye in all situations. That's alright! God created us uniquely and so we all bring different opinions, experiences and perspectives to the conversation.
- **Love, love, love.** Even if we disagree, we do so in love. Love is the binding force in all Christ-centered relationships, so we will not let our differences divide us.
- **Minimize distractions.** We recognize that emergencies may arise, but we will do our best to minimize what distractions we are able to (yeah, we're talking about cell phones here - put them away!).

Leader Guidelines

Thank you for taking the time to invest in others by leading a group. As a leader, your task is to create an environment where real relationships can thrive. Here are some things to keep in mind as you do that:

- **Multiply.** The mission of the church is to multiply disciples. Groups are one of the environments where this occurs. You are involved in the discipleship of each person in your group. We ask that each of our group leaders has someone who they are equipping to be a disciple-maker.
- **Create a safe environment.** When we say 'safe', we mean an environment where participants can freely share without feeling belittled or that what they share will get spread beyond the group.

When we say 'safe', we also mean a group where participants can encounter Jesus and His plan for their life.

- **Recognize that your group is unique.** This booklet is designed to be a general guide, but every group is unique. So when you're planning, take into account what does and doesn't work for your group and shape the session to their personalities and needs.
- **Review the ground rules.** Periodically, remind your group about the ground rules for the group.
- **Ask lots of questions.** Engaging leaders draw participants into the discussion. Ask many questions and lead your group into self-discovery.
- **Get feedback.** Improve your group by asking others for feedback.
- **Seek wise council.** There are some questions you won't be able to answer and some situations you aren't trained to handle. That's OK! Know who your wise council is (whether a coach, minister, or another disciple-maker) and turn to them in your time of need.

Before the Session

Prepare for the Session: As a group leader, it's essential to be prepared. Before the group session:

1. **Pray.** These are God's Words and it is His Spirit that provides authentic transformation. So take time to turn the group over to Him.
2. **Take time to read over the Bible passage.** While reading, write down any questions that you have about the text.
3. **Preview the session guide.** Read through the session guide. Shape the session for your group by highlighting important questions to ask and adding your own.
4. **Tap into study resources.** Broaden your understanding of the biblical text by tapping into additional study resources. Discover the answers to your questions and increase your knowledge of the Biblical content. These study resources can be found in the Resource Center at CCW, the back of this guide, and in a variety of other places.

During the Session

- **Icebreaker:** Get the discussion rolling with an icebreaker activity or question. We've provided one for you, but you know your group better than us! The goal is to get them talking.
- **Share:** Take time to review the content from last week. Two important things to ask group participants about during this time are:
 - **Prayer Requests:** If a group participant made a prayer request the previous week, make sure to take this opportunity to follow up on what God is doing in their life.
 - **Application and Challenges:** Some weeks give specific challenges for groups to attempt throughout the week. Other times, a group participant will take on a challenge as a result of application discussion (e.g. 'This week, I would like to...'). Either way, take time to ask about these.
- **Transition:** In the Transition, we give you a way to shift gears into the Bible reading and focus of the night. Usually this comes in the form of something simple that can be said (stated in italics).
- **Read It:** Read through the Scripture passage. If it's a larger section of scripture, break it into smaller sections and ask questions throughout.
- **Talk About It:** After reading, the next step is to make sure that the Bible passage is understood in its context. The main ways to do this are:
 1. As a group, *retell* the story in your own words.
 2. Ask *review questions*, which are provided in each small group session.
 3. Take some time to *ask the key questions*. These questions are the same in each session and they help to bridge the gap between understanding and application.
- **Apply It:** Ultimately, the Bible should shape who we are and how we live our lives. So once we have

read over the text and reviewed the text, it's essential that we personalize it through application. The apply it section may have both (a) application questions and (b) challenges. Challenges are real-life ways to put Biblical Truth into effect this week.

- **Pray Together:** As a group, share prayer requests and write these requests down. Afterwards, take time to turn those requests over to God. Make sure to center some of this prayer time specifically on the application/challenges discussed in the session.

After the Session

- **Follow Up:** Real relationships aren't formed in a single weekly session. They are formed as a result of ongoing presence in the lives of one another. Follow up with group members throughout the week to (a) remind them of their application/challenge commitments, (b) check in on prayer requests, and (c) to simply do life together.
- **Input Group Attendance:** As a CCW group, you should receive an e-mail asking for your group's attendance. Filling in this form is incredibly important to the continued spiritual development for those connected to CCW. The point: please take time to use this valuable resource!

NOTES

2 SAMUEL

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

10 24

HISTORY



OVERVIEW

Initially, 1 and 2 Samuel were combined, so 2 Samuel is a continuation of 1 Samuel. It begins with David's seven years as king and finishes with the end of his life, having served as king from age 30 to 70.



WRITTEN
900 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
1000-975 BC



AUTHOR
Prophets Nathan and
Gad with records
from Samuel

1 DAVID NEARS
KINGSHIP

David is crowned king of Judah, but Saul's son still rules the rest of Israel. The houses of David and Saul battle for 6-7 years as Saul's house weakens and David's house receives strength.

2 SAMUEL 1-5

2 DAVID REIGNS
FROM
JERUSALEM

David takes Jerusalem from the Jebusites and the Ark of the Covenant is brought to Jerusalem. David dances before the Lord, offers a solemn prayer, and shows kindness to Jonathan's son.

2 SAMUEL 6-10

3 TROUBLE IN THE
HOUSE

David's kingship is filled with family difficulties. He commits adultery with Bathsheba, and his daughter Tamar is raped by his son Amnon, who is then killed by Absalom. Absalom later betrays David and is killed.

2 SAMUEL 11-19

4 EVEN MORE
BLOODSHED

David has conflicts with other nations. He stops the rebellion of Sheba and delivers seven of Saul's sons to the Gibeonites, who die as payment for their father's sins.

2 SAMUEL 20-21

5 END OF DAVID'S
LIFE AND A FINAL
TALE

David writes a famous psalm and records many military heroes and their deeds. He then sins, showing a lack of faith, by taking a census of his military, and repents.

2 SAMUEL 22-24

SESSION ONE

BIBLICAL TRUTH

Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *What is your first remembered encounter with the Bible? What did you read and what was your impression?*

Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

This week, Joe talked about how we can discover the value of Biblical Truth in the life of King David. In this session, we'll look at several of his psalms that focus on this value.

Read It

Scripture reference: **Psalm 1**

Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked

or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,

2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,

and who meditates on his law day and night.

3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season

and whose leaf does not wither—

whatever they do prospers.

4 Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff

that the wind blows away.

*5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.*

*6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.*

Review It

- What activities does the righteous person avoid? (1:1-3)
- How does the psalm writer connect delight and meditation? (1:2)
- What does the image of the tree tell us about the righteous person? (1:3)
- What differences are implied by the references to "tree" and "chaff"? (1:3-5)
- How are the wicked described in the psalm? (1:4-5) How are the righteous described in the psalm? (1:4-5)
- What consequences do the wicked face? (1:5)
- How do the futures of the righteous and the wicked differ? (1:6)
- What does it mean to meditate on God's law day and night?

Read It

Scripture reference: **Psalm 119:89 - 96**

89 Your word, Lord, is eternal;

it stands firm in the heavens.

90 Your faithfulness continues through all generations;

you established the earth, and it endures.

*91 Your laws endure to this day,
for all things serve you.*

*92 If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.*

*93 I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have preserved my life.*

*94 Save me, for I am yours;
I have sought out your precepts.*

*95 The wicked are waiting to destroy me,
but I will ponder your statutes.*

*96 To all perfection I see a limit,
but your commands are boundless.*

Review It

- What are some words that the psalmist uses to describe God's Word in this psalm?
- How is God's faithfulness described? (119:90)
- What effect to God's Word/Law have in the life of the psalmist? (92 - 93)
- What does the psalmist say that he will do in response to the threats in life? (95)

Notes

Apply It

- What do these psalms teach us about Biblical Truth?
- If someone was to ask you to describe or the value of God's Word, what words or word-pictures would you give to them?
- What would it look like for you to begin to meditate on God's Word?
- How can we demonstrate our delight in God's Word?
- **Challenge:** If you have not yet done so, pick up one of the Core Value Challenge Cards. There is a growth challenge related to each of the values. Grab the value that you most need to grow in and commit to completing the activity!

Pray Together

Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

SESSION TWO

SELFLESS SERVICE

Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *Tell of a time when someone has surprised you with an act of service.*

Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

David exemplified the Core Value of Selfless Service many times as he led the nation of Israel. During this group session, we'll be looking at this value as portrayed in Psalm 146.

Read It

Scripture reference: **Psalm 146**

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

2 I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

3 Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

4 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God.

6 He is the Maker of heaven and earth,

the sea, and everything in them—

he remains faithful forever.

7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed

and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

8 the Lord gives sight to the blind,

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,

the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the foreigner

and sustains the fatherless and the widow,

but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

10 The Lord reigns forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Review It

- This is a psalm of praise. Why does the psalmist say that he puts his trust in God rather than 'princes'? (146:2 - 4)
- What has God that makes Him worthy of praise? (6)
- How does God show His faithfulness to people in this world? (7 - 9)
- As a group, list each of the people that the psalmist says that God shows his faithfulness to (e.g. oppressed, hungry) and how He helps them in their need.
- Beyond showing His faithfulness, what can we learn about God from His actions?

Apply It

- When has proven His faithfulness by meeting a need in your life?
- As Christ-followers, we are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and live the same life. What would it mean to have the same attitude towards peoples needs as God has here?
- How do we see the Core Value of Selfless Service represented in Psalm 146?
- How well do you feel that you are following in God's love and goodness towards these various groups of people?
- Which of these groups do you find the most challenging to serve? Why?
- What would it look like for you to begin living out the Core Value of Selfless Service in your life?
- **Challenge:** If you have not yet done so, pick up one of the Core Value Challenge Cards. There is a growth challenge related to each of the values. Grab the value that you most need to grow in and commit to completing the activity!

Pray Together

Notes

Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

SESSION THREE

SPIRIT-LED LIVING

Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *When is a time that you've had a supernatural experience that you cannot explain?*

Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

Both Jesus and King David showed us the value of living a Spirit-led life. In this session, we'll be looking at Psalm 51 and how we can better live out the Core Value of Spirit-Led Living.

Read It

Scripture reference: **Psalm 51**

*1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
5 Surely I was sinful at birth,*

*sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
9 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
15 Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.
18 May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.*

19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,

in burnt offerings offered whole;

then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Review It

- Why was the psalm writer able to ask for forgiveness from God? (51:1)
- What was the psalm writer's attitude toward his sin? (51:3-5)
- What main picture of forgiveness is highlighted in this psalm? (51:2, 7, 9)
- What does the picture of forgiveness used in this poem reflect about the psalm writer's attitude? (51:2, 7, 9)
- To what do the "inner parts" and "inmost place" refer? (51:6)
- Where does God desire truth? (51:6)
- What did the author of this psalm desire? (51:10-12)
- What did the psalm writer expect to be the outcome of God's forgiveness? (51:13-15)
- What does God not require of His people? (51:16)
- What does the Lord want from His people? (51:17)

Notes

Apply It

- As a group, listen to the song Psalm 51 (Wisdom in the Secret Heart) by Shane and Shane (using a lyric video on Youtube is recommended).
- What did this psalm have to say about the Core Value of Spirit-Led Living?
- What do you think it means to have a broken and contrite heart?
- How do you need to change your own attitude toward your sin and God's gift of forgiveness to you?
- With whom can you share your experience of God's forgiveness?
- What can you do to cultivate a broken and contrite heart before God?
- How will you practice the Core Value of Spirit-Led Living this week?
- **Challenge:** If you have not yet done so, pick up one of the Core Value Challenge Cards. There is a growth challenge related to each of the values. Grab the value that you most need to grow in and commit to completing the activity!

Pray Together

Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

SESSION FOUR

INSPIRED WORSHIP

Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *What is something that tends to move you towards worshipping God (e.g. a specific song, a sunset)?*

Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

King David's life was full of worship and that overflowed in his writings in the book of Psalms. Today, we'll be looking at Psalm 34 and talking about how we too can become a people of Inspired Worship.

Read It

Scripture reference: **Psalm 34**

*1 I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.*

*2 I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.*

*3 Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.*

*4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.*

*5 Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.*

*6 This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.*

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,

and he delivers them.

*8 Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*

*9 Fear the Lord, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing.*

*10 The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.*

*11 Come, my children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.*

*12 Whoever of you loves life
and desires to see many good days,*

*13 keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from telling lies.*

*14 Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.*

*15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;*

*16 but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to blot out their name from the earth.*

*17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.*

*18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

*19 The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;*

*20 he protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.*

21 *Evil will slay the wicked;*

the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

22 *The Lord will rescue his servants;*

no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Review It

- What commitment did David make? (34:1-3)
- What motivated David to praise the Lord? (34:4-7)
- From what did the Lord deliver David? (34:5-6)
- How did David describe those who trust in the Lord? (34:5-6)
- What are the benefits of trusting in the Lord? (34:8-10)
- What specific instructions did David offer to God's people? (34:8-14)
- What do we need to know about "fear of the Lord"? (34:11-14)
- How does God respond to the cries of the righteous? (34:15, 17)
- How are the righteous treated different from the wicked? (34:15-22)

Apply It

- As a group, listen to the song Psalm 34 (Taste and See) by Shane and Shane (using a lyric video on Youtube is recommended).
- What does this psalm reveal to us about the Core Value of Inspired Worship?
- How does this psalm encourage you to put your trust in the Lord?
- What benefits have you seen in trusting God?
- What specific instructions from this psalm do you need to concentrate on following?
- How will you put into practice the Core Value of Inspired Worship this week?
- **Challenge:** If you have not yet done so, pick up one of the Core Value Challenge Cards. There is a growth challenge related to each of the values. Grab the value that you most need to grow in and commit to completing the activity!

Pray Together

Notes

Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

SESSION FIVE

REAL RELATIONSHIPS

Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *Who was your first best friend and what is something that you remember about them?*
- *What is the longest friendship that you've had?*

Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

In this final session inside the book of Psalms, we'll be looking at the Core Value of Real Relationships in two different psalms (122 and 133).

Read It

Scripture reference: **Psalm 122**

1 I rejoiced with those who said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

2 Our feet are standing

in your gates, Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built like a city

that is closely compacted together.

4 That is where the tribes go up—

the tribes of the Lord—

to praise the name of the Lord

according to the statute given to Israel.

5 There stand the thrones for judgment,

the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May those who love you be secure.

7 May there be peace within your walls

and security within your citadels."

8 For the sake of my family and friends,

I will say, "Peace be within you."

9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your prosperity.

Review It

- Where does the Psalmist say that he is going in the first view of this psalm? (1 - 2)
- How does he describe Jerusalem? (3)
- What do people do when they go to the city of Jerusalem? (4 - 5)
- What does the psalmist pray for? (6 - 7)
- Why does the psalmist pray for peace over the city of Jerusalem? (8 - 9)

Read It

Scripture reference: **Psalm 133:1**

1 How good and pleasant it is

when God's people live together in unity!

Review It

- What does the psalmist describe the 'unity' of God's people?
- When have you experienced unity in a 'good and pleasant' way?

Apply It

- What do these two psalms have to say about the Core Value of Real Relationships?
- Psalm 122 describes Real Relationships through the lens of a community (Jerusalem). What are some communities that you are a part of? How do you pray for those communities?
- What would it look like to seek deeper community at Christian Church in the Wildwood? What does it look like for this community to prosper?
- Where do you struggle to have unity? Why is unity such an important thing in the Church?
- How will you practice the Core Value of Real Relationships this week?
- **Challenge:** If you have not yet done so, pick up one of the Core Value Challenge Cards. There is a growth challenge related to each of the values. Grab the value that you most need to grow in and commit to completing the activity!

Pray Together

Notes

Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

CORE VALUES

RESOURCES

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **RightNow Media:**

Get a free RightNow Media account to get access to thousands of study resources. Some potential resources include:

- **David (Stanley):** Humble shepherd. Giant-slayer. Gifted poet. Mighty warrior. Flawed man. Legendary leader. In this 5-part series, Andy Stanley explores the life of one of history's most famous kings.
- **King David (Nasser):** Hollywood couldn't write a more conflicted and compelling story about a boy who would become king. But this humble shepherd boy who became the greatest king of Israel also struggled with sin, authority, purity, and integrity. In these four inspiring youth Bible study sessions, David Nasser looks at the trials, temptations, and triumphs that King David faced and shows how the truths found in David's life are relevant to the real-life issues students encounter every day.
- **Into the Psalms: Talking Worship Through the Psalms (Shane & Shane):** Grab a cup of coffee and join Shane & Shane as they walk through the theology and meaning behind several of their favorite Psalms with John Piper. 8 total sessions.
- **How to Read Psalms (Mackie):** The Bible can be hard to interpret. It's lengthy, packed full of characters, and sometimes difficult to tie into daily life. Psalms is a collection of songs and poems from ancient Israel. In this post, The Bible Project breaks down the book into digestible pieces so we can understand and apply its truths.

If you're not yet connected to RNM, please contact the CCW Offices or go to ccw.church/rightnow-media/ to sign up.

- **YouVersion Reading Plans:**

We have a few recommended reading plans using the YouVersion Bible App. Choose one and read it along with the series:

- Journal Psalms (25 Days)
- Psalms (31 Days)
- Reading the Psalms with Timothy and Kathy Keller (11 Days)

- **The Bible Project (www.thebibleproject.com)**

The Bible Project offers a variety of amazing resources. These videos expand on many of the ideas that we have touched on in this series.