

=Story Behind the Psalm=

Psalm 118

NOTE: *These lessons are designed simply as a guideline. As a Sunday School teacher part of your job is to study the lesson and develop it for the pupils in your class according to their age and spiritual development.*

Scripture: Psalms 118

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The Story Behind the Psalm

This is an antiphonal Psalm, which means it was sung responsively by two groups of singers. It was used by a divided choir. It was sometimes used by a divided congregation, and at other times it was used as responsive singing between the congregation and the choir. It was written for this specific purpose.

The Way It Was Used by God's People

Obviously it was used mainly for public worship, though it could be used by a large family divided into two groups.

LESSON:

Notice the first verse and the last verses are the same; *O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever.* This is the main theme of this psalm. How is God good and how does His mercy endure forever?

1. I called upon the LORD and He heard me (5)

- a. What a wonder that God wants to hear from us, frail sinful mankind (Rev. 5:8; Ps. 4:3; Micah 7:7).
- b. God wants to show His power on our behalf.

2. The LORD is on my side (6)

- a. If God be for us who can be against us (Romans 8:31)
- b. We are His people; He will fight for us (II Kings 6:17)

3. The LORD will help me (7)

- a. When nobody else can help, God is there and can help.

4. The Lord is trustworthy (8-17)

- a. We can trust God's Word.
 - b. We can trust God's judgments (Psalm 19:9)
 - c. We can trust God's will. He wants the best for His people.
 - d. We can trust God with everything we have (money/spouse/children/ministry)
- 5. He chastens us (18)**
- a. God corrects His children because He loves them and has greater things for them (Prov. 3:11-12)
 - b. Chastisement is a sign of God's blessing and favor (Ps. 94:12)
- 6. He provided a Saviour (19-27)**
- a. His mercy and goodness begins and ends with this (Roman 5:8)

Memory Verse: *O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever. Psalm 118:1*