

# Discussion Guide

Week of June 17, 2012

Psalm 90

## Passage Overview

Psalm 90 asks God to have pity on his people and bless them. The title, ascribed to Moses, invites the singing congregation to picture Israel around the time of Deuteronomy, as they were about to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land. Their parents had followed Moses out of Egypt, through the parted Red Sea—and yet they rebelled, so that God swore that they would not enter the land. For the Israelites to accomplish their mission and for God to establish the work of their hands (Ps 90:17) would require that the people embrace the covenant and live in faith toward God. Those who sing this should see themselves as the heirs of that generation, seeking like them the blessing of God so that they can carry out their mission, stewarding their lives to bless others and glorify God.

## Understanding God's Word—Read Psalm 90

- How is God described in vv. 1–2? Contrast this with human beings (see vv. 3–6).
- In vv. 7–11, Moses reflects on the unfaithfulness of past generations (“iniquities” and “secret sins”; v. 8), which resulted in God’s wrath (vv. 7, 9, 11). How is the short, fleeting nature of human life described in these verses?
- What does Moses ask God to do on behalf of the people in vv. 12–17?

## Living and Applying God's Word

- God is eternal (vv. 1–2) and human life fleeting (vv. 3–11). Therefore, we must “number our days” (v. 12)—make them count. What are the implications of this truth for how you spend your time in the following areas?
  - Watching TV (and entertainment in general)
  - Kid’s sports and dance/musical lessons
  - Prayer and Bible study
  - Hobbies and recreational activity
- Moses eagerly prays for God to guide his people in faithful living (v. 12) that he would draw near to his people to make them glad (vv. 13–15) and bless their endeavors (vv. 16–17). What is the significance of Moses’ prayer for *God* to accomplish this and not for the Israelites to muster up the strength to accomplish this? How is this consistent with justification by faith and not by works (Rom 3:21–26)?

## Turn to God in Faith and Repentance

- This psalm stresses time’s passing and God’s eternal and unchanging nature “in all generations” (v. 1), “from everlasting to everlasting” (v. 2). The awareness of how short human life is (v. 10) leads to earnest prayer for God’s help, without which his people can accomplish nothing of lasting value (vv. 16–17). Simply stated, this psalm is a call to not waste our lives.
  - In our culture, how are we tempted to waste our lives?
  - In what ways do you need to repent in how you spend your time?
  - How can we hold one another accountable for making the most of our life?

## Pray

Ask God to teach you to number your days and to satisfy you with his steadfast love. Pray for the needs of the people in your group. Pray also for Jay & Nancy Dickerson as they serve in Central America.

## Announcements

- Bible Study Info Mtg. (June 18)
- Baptism Sunday (June 24)
- Bible Study Leader Training (June 27)
- “One Another” Mtg. (July 8)