# The Book of Psalms

## Description

This is a course on Bible Interpretation, demonstrated with the book of Psalms.

## Course Objectives

By completing this course, the student will:

1. Better understand the process of interpreting a book of the Bible and teaching it to their disciples.
2. Understand the contents and context of Psalms.
3. Better understand biblical poetry and its use in Psalms.
4. Have a greater appreciation for the history of interpretation so that they are better prepared to enter into the ongoing discussion.
5. Have a greater motivation to make disciples.

## Textbooks

1. The Bible
2. Class notes

## Assignments

1. Read Psalms through during the course, marking up the book with questions and associations.
2. Keep folders (3-ring binder, or a computer folder) devoted to Psalms with a collection of material relevant to its interpretation.
3. Final exam. Completion of the course is dependent on attendance on the final night and passing an exam on the material covered in the class.

## Schedule

Class times are 7:00–7:55 (15 minute break), 8:10–9:00.

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| Date | Session | Content |
| 9/5 | 12 | Introduction to Course, and “Why are we Here?”; Bible InterpretationPsalms 1; 2 |
| 9/12 | 34 | The Psalms Genre and Forms; PoetryPsalms 3; 8 |
| 9/19 | 56 | The Structure and Shape of PsalmsPsalms 9; 11; 14 |
| 9/26 | 78 | Psalms 16; 18Psalms 19; 22 |
| 10/3 | 910 | Psalms 23; 32Psalms 45; 51 |
| 10/10 | 1112 | Psalms 68, 69Psalms 73; 79; 89 |
| 10/17 | 1314 | Psalms 90; 95Psalms 104; 110 |
| 10/24 | 1516 | Psalms 118, 119Psalms 122; 136; 137 |
| 11/7 | 1718 | Psalms 139; 144, 150Exodus 15; Deuteronomy 32 |
| 11/14 | 1920 | Final Questions and DiscussionFinal Exam and Celebration |

## Select Bibliography

Though there are no required textbooks for this course, you may wish to acquire some of the following for your personal study. If you have questions regarding these or other books, please ask.

Allen, Leslie C. *Psalms 101-150*. Word Biblical Commentary, ed. David A. Hubbard, Glenn W. Barker, and Old Testament Editor John D. W. Watts, vol. 21. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1983.

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Grant, Jamie A. *The King as Exemplar: The Function of Deuteronomy’s Kingship Law in the Shaping of the Book of Psalms*. Academia biblica, ed. Adele Berlin, no. 17. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2004.

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