

# CALL OUT

WEEK 2

## A STUDY OF THE PSALMS

### FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

The 2006 movie, *We Are Marshall*, tells the story of Marshall University rebuilding their football team after they were tragically lost in a plane crash. To have any chance at success they needed to petition the NCAA to allow freshmen to play. After being denied, coach Jack Lengyel pushed President Don Dedmon to ask a little more personally.

In a brilliant scene, Coach Lengyel asked, "Don, are you married?...Now, I am going to bet that you didn't propose over the phone...And I'm pretty sure, that she didn't accept with a letter." The message was received and President Dedmon went personally to ask for permission to play freshman. It worked. Marshall University fielded a competitive team when people needed it most.

In today's passage, we're going to see a critical difference—knowing *about* God versus *knowing God* as he revealed himself.

#### PSALM 19

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. <sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. <sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup> the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup> Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. <sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

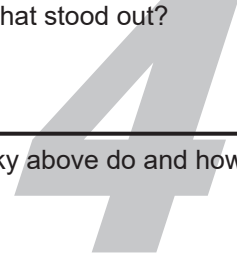
"Oh, Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, 'How great Thou art.'"

Scan the QR code to listen to one of the greatest hymns of all time. Consider the lyrics as we celebrate the majesty and might of God through Creation as well as the overwhelming compassion to send his Son to die for us.



### DISCUSSION

Describe a time when you were awed by some aspect of Creation. What was it and what stood out?



1. What do the heavens and sky above do and how frequently? (1-2)

2. What statements describe the worth of the Scriptures? (10-11)

3. What is a presumptuous sin? (13)

4. What key habits would indicate that a person truly believes the value of Scripture described in these verses? (10-11)

5. In what new ways can you respond to God's Creation? To his Word?

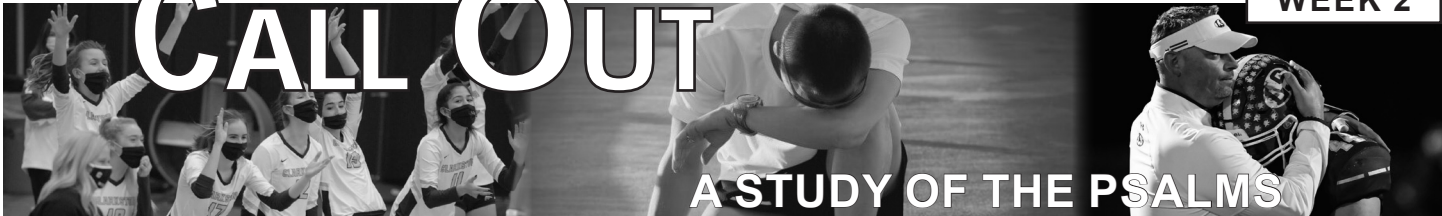
ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Most of the people around you know *about* God, but much less *know him*. If you're unsure of the difference, or what to do about it, talk to your Coach today!



## A STUDY OF THE PSALMS

### STUDY NOTES

#### RELENTLESS PURSUIT

College coaches routinely use emails or invitation letters to let high school athletes know they're wanted. A *highly* desirable athlete might get a phone call or even a personal visit. However, to woo someone *desperately* wanted, coaches get extremely creative.

Rice University went after 3-star quarterback, J.T. Granato by sending a letter to his *cat*! It read, "Please help us get J.T. to choose Rice. Paw me in case you have any questions." It worked purrfectly with Granato joining the Owls. NC State's Chuck Amato recruited cornerback A.J. Davis to the Wolfpack by singing Dean Martin's "Return to Me." To attract 5-star defensive tackle, Shy Tuttle, the Tennessee Volunteers designed a fake *Rolling Stones* cover of him with Beyonce.

Strong relational pursuits inspire and motivate personal creativity and energy toward the pursued. While this pursuit brings out the best (and worst) in pursuers, absolutely *nothing* compares to the positive ways Almighty God pursues you! This Week's passage shows four different ways God relentlessly pursues us.

#### GOD'S REVELATION COMES THROUGH CREATION

First, God's revelation comes through Creation. The psalmist, King David poetically describes this, "***The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.***"

This description of God *revealing* himself through Creation is what Bible teachers call "general revelation." It's "general" because it's not very specific—you can learn things *about* God, but you can't *know* him. This is what Paul means later in Romans when he said, "***For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse***" (Romans 1:20). Creation is his ***voice... to the end of the world.***

The second way God relentlessly pursues us—God's revelation comes into our world. Some people believe God created, but that he wound up creation like an old clock and left it alone to run on its own. He set everything in motion, but we can't really *know* him.

In contrast, David described God's power as reaching into Creation. One of the tools described was the ***sun***. Your coach can share from the Coach's Study about the sun as ***bridegroom***, which we don't have space for here. However, notice the sun's penetration into Creation, ***nothing is***

***hidden from its heat.*** Unlike many pagan religions that worshipped the sun as god, David described the sun, not as a god at all, but as one of many tools created by and used by one, singular God who reigns as Sovereign over everything beyond and beneath it.

The third way God relentlessly pursues us—God's revelation comes through his Word. In verse 7, David moved from "general revelation" to "special revelation." No longer is he talking about the things that anyone can see by looking anywhere, but instead, it's how God revealed himself through his Word.

Look how David describes God's Word and rules: ***perfect, reviving, sure, making wise the simple, right, rejoicing the heart, pure, enlightening the eyes, clean, enduring forever, true, and righteous. More to be desired are they than gold... sweeter also than honey.*** Have you ever read scripture and been this excited about its rules?

The fourth way God relentlessly pursues us—God's revelation comes to bless us. David said of God's Word, "***by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.***" Notice the change in relationship starting in verse 12, "***Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins.***" I mean, who is David talking to?

#### CALL OUT TO GOD BECAUSE OF HIS REVELATION

Psalm 19 starts out general and impersonal. By the time you read verse 12 and following, it's specific and relational. There are many great promises in the Bible, but nothing is greater than *knowing* God and having a relationship with him.

We discussed last week that a relationship with the Lord is only through faith in Jesus Christ. However, God's Word is the primary way that God speaks to us. God the Holy Spirit uses God's Word in our lives. The very God who inspired the original authors dwells inside believers to reveal that truth to us. When we know God and see all that he's done to relentlessly pursue us, how can we not call out to him a prayer like David prayed, "***Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer?***"

Maybe you don't know God like this. Maybe you've never loved reading your Bible or praying as much as David did. While that's an admittedly high bar, why don't we have the same passion and zeal as David?

Perhaps, it's because if we even read out Bible's regularly, it becomes a task to do. We forget that the Creator of the universe has written a love letter to us and for our greatest good.