

Thanksgiving Bible Study

Psalm 107 is a call to praise the Lord for his unfailing love. It is written to a group of people who look backwards to remember their distressing circumstances and God's amazing power in delivering them. Sometimes they were in a mess of their own making, sometimes harsh circumstances outside their control fell upon them, but either way, God was attentive to their cry and came to their rescue. As a result their hearts are filled with thanksgiving and praise of God.

READ Psalm 107:1-32

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say this—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
- 3 those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.
- 4 Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
- 5 They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.
- 6 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 7 He led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.
- 8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men,
- 9 for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

- 10 Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom,
prisoners suffering in iron chains,
- 11 for they had rebelled against the words of God
and despised the counsel of the Most High.

- 12 So he subjected them to bitter labor;
they stumbled, and there was no one to help.
- 13 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
- 14 He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom
and broke away their chains.
- 15 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men,
- 16 for he breaks down gates of bronze
and cuts through bars of iron.
- 17 Some became fools through their rebellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
- 18 They loathed all food
and drew near the gates of death.
- 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men.
- 22 Let them sacrifice thank offerings
and tell of his works with songs of joy.
- 23 Others went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.
- 24 They saw the works of the LORD,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.
- 25 For he spoke and stirred up a tempest
that lifted high the waves.
- 26 They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths;
in their peril their courage melted away.
- 27 They reeled and staggered like drunken men;
they were at their wits' end.

- 28 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
- 29 He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.
- 30 They were glad when it grew calm,
and he guided them to their desired haven.
- 31 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men.
- 32 Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders.

These verses can be broken down into 4 scenarios

1. **Look at verses 1 – 9 where God Retrieves the wanderers.**
What problems were the people facing? Why would people wandering in a desert long to find a city?
2. When you think back over this past year, is there any way that you have felt lost, unsettled or like a wanderer?
3. When we experience distress, sometimes we cry out to God and sometimes we don't. What encourages you to turn to God in tough times? What barriers block you from turning to God in tough times?
4. **Look at verses 10 – 16 where God Releases the prisoners.**
The imagery of darkness, deepest gloom and prisoners in iron chains speaks of bondage. Looking at verse 11 and 12, what role did they play in bringing this bad state upon themselves?
5. Today our bondage can be depression, obsession with body image, pornography, drugs, bitterness caused by unforgiveness, or alcohol. In your opinion, which of these seems to be the greatest source of bondage on your campus?
6. Again the people cry out to God in their distress. Why would God save them from their distress when it was brought about through rebellion to him? Why is it harder to go to God for help when we have made bad choices that have brought about our mess?
7. **Look at verses 17 – 22 where God Restores the afflicted.**
What seems to be the problem these people are facing? How does God rescue them when they cry out to Him?

8. Have you or anyone close to you experienced serious illness this year and cried out to God for healing?
9. **Look at verses 23 – 32 where God Rescues the storm tossed.**
What adversity comes upon these merchants traveling for business purposes?
When they cried out to God, how did God remedy the situation?
10. What storms have swept your life this past year? How has God delivered you?
11. These scenarios of distress have 4 parts:
 - ** The people experience a hopeless problem
 - ** They cry out to God for help
 - ** God hears their cry and delivers them in power and compassion
 - ** They give thanks to God for His unfailing loveCan you share a situation this year where you have seen Gods delivering power that has provoked thankfulness to God?
12. This Thanksgiving, what are you most grateful for?