

LG | Leader

[Psalm 11]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go the Lord in prayer.

- Before we dive into the book of Psalms, what is your favorite Psalm and why?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Let's read Psalm 11. Who is the author of this text? What is the general theme of this Psalm?
King David is the author of this Psalm. Although David opens this Psalm with a feeling of distress for the righteous, he ultimately looks to the Lord in this time of need and is reminded of how the Lord will test the righteous but will ultimately protect them and bring judgement on the wicked.
2. We don't know every detail about what is happening when David is writing this Psalm, but what can we conclude about the question in verse 3? What do the "foundations" likely represent?
It seems that the righteous (could be David specifically or Israel more generally) is being attacked by those who are wicked and desire to kill. The "foundations" represent the principles of truth and justice that set Israel apart from other peoples.
3. How would you translate verse 3 into your own words?
[Example: What can Christians do if the principles of truth and justice are attacked?]
4. How might verse 3 apply to believers in our modern world?
The principles and truths that govern the biblical worldview concerning law and justice were revealed to us early on in the Bible, specifically in the Ten Commandments. As one travels down the list of the Ten Commandments and the implications of each, it is easy to recognize that our modern culture is offended by the laws God has given us to live by. Our biblical "foundations," which were given to us by God and elevated by Jesus, is in many ways under attack.
5. David poses the question about the possibility of the foundations being destroyed, but can the "foundations" actually be destroyed, why or why not?
As believers, our "foundations" can be attacked, but they can never be destroyed. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone upon which all things stand. Jesus Christ rules and reigns over all created things and has dominion over all. The foundations can never be destroyed.
6. Given what David says about God, what does David believe about God? What does he know to be true about God?
David believes God reigns and has authority over all. He explains that God is Holy and He is in heaven watching and testing the children of man. He believes that the Lord loves the righteous

and that He will bring judgement to the wicked. Ultimately, he believes the righteous will prevail and behold God's face.

7. As we depart this Psalm, what should we take away from it, as believers?

In times of distress and calamity, we must not be a fleeing people, but a people that turns to God for wisdom and direction. We know that God "assesses the inner condition of all mankind, especially through the testing of the righteous" (ESV Study Bible Commentary). Given that tests will come, we must lean all the more into our place of refuge in times of trouble. *"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust" – Psalm 91:1-2.*

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.