

The Psalms of David

*Franklin Christian Church
Fall 2017 Life Group Study*



Psalm 20 (Week of Sept. 10; 1 Sam. 16)

Introduction: When Samuel anoints David as king (1 Samuel 16), God does not choose the most qualified person from a worldly standpoint. God chooses David based on his heart. As a psalm composed for ceremonies concerning the Israelite King, envision Samuel saying the words of Psalm 20 as he anoints David. You'll notice the psalm begins and ends with the people's request for God to answer their call for victory – a desire we still have in our hearts today.

Have a group member read the psalm aloud. Group members with Bibles can follow along and note anything that stands out.

1. (vv1-4) David knew what it was to be in distress. After he was anointed King, life presented him with numerous challenges. What are some of the biggest stresses in your life right now and how are you dealing with them?

(v2) What kind of help do you need in the face of your distress? What are some ways you can lean on God during this time of distress? What are some ways you can lean on one another?

2. In verse 5 we see a shift from Samuel invoking God's help alone, to encouraging the whole community of Israel to support their newly anointed king and his future victories. God brings victories into our lives in the big and small. Spend some time celebrating the victories God has brought into your own lives as each group member shares one example of God's work in your life – either in past experiences or present circumstances.

3. (v 5) Most every person of faith has experienced God both granting and not granting your requests. How has this impacted your faith?

4. Verse 6 contains a promise that God gives victory to his anointed. Sometimes, David's life looked anything but victorious. What are some examples you can think of from David's life of how he clung to God's promises when life was hard? What are ways you have done the same when your life has been difficult?

5. Read verse 7, and notice where David puts his trust and pride. What are conventional forms of worldly might and strength you are tempted to trust and take pride in? Why are these so tempting?

This psalm also raises the question of praying for earthly leaders. How might we faithfully pray for worldly leaders without, as v. 7 notes, placing our ultimate trust in them?

6. What does this psalm reveal about David's heart? What about God's heart? What has this revealed in your hearts?