

# The Psalms of David

*Franklin Christian Church  
Fall 2017 Life Group Study*



## Psalm 7 (Week of Nov. 5)

**Introduction:** 2 Samuel 18-19 describe some volatile emotions in David's life as he processes the death of his son, Absalom. His soldiers were satisfied in their victory over Absalom's insurrection, but David struggled with guilt amidst his personal tragedy. Psalm 7 matches some of the emotions of the story, and provides a prayer that calls on God to help sort through personal guilt and anxiety. Psalm 7 represents a humble attitude in assessing the personal difficulties in the life of God's people.

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

1. Read verses 1-2 and notice the poetic description of anxiety in the life of David. In this context, David's anxiety comes from his pursuing enemies, which feels like it could end with being torn to shreds. What brings on anxiety in your lives? In relation to David's story, past or potentially future tragedy may play a role in anxiety. Has the reality or prospect of tragedy played a role in anxiety in your lives?

2. Read verses 3-5, where David struggles with his own role in the anxiety he feels. In relation to the story, this could practically apply to the death of his son Absalom. When tragedy strikes in our lives, when is it helpful to apply fault? When is it not? Does the application of fault help or hinder struggles with anxiety?

3. Read verses 6-13 carefully. Report some initial observations about this section of the text. After the opening remarks, consider how “fault” is sorted out in this part of the passage. This section may call to mind Romans 12:19 (and its context). Can God’s wrath/vengeance be comforting to us as it was for David when he wrote this psalm?

4. Verses 14-16 reflect Israel’s wisdom literature, which predicts that much of the “trouble” brought into our own lives comes from bad decisions we’ve made (this plays out practically for David in 2 Samuel 12:2). Discuss the level to which this has been true in your own lives. What is the role of the community in your small group or church when someone “falls into the pit they have made?”

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

6. David’s situation in 2 Samuel 19 may bring up some initial emotions for anyone wrestling with responsibility or perceived fault amidst personal tragedy. Take an opportunity to allow anyone to voice any strains they feel about personal tragedy in their past or present. Do not judge or advise anyone who wants to speak, but allow them to honestly open up about their situation. There’s no pressure here to speak.