

Gospel Café: A Journey Through the Psalms

This resource is an outline designed to be used with the Gospel Café. It's purpose is to create a conversation journey through the Psalms. As we walk the path of discovery together, may the Holy Spirit give us insight into the character and workings of God and Mankind. May He also teach us, reproof us, correct us, and train us in righteousness.

PRE-CAFÉ SETUP

Arrange tables for 4-6 individuals

Drape each table with a decorative table cloth

Cover the top of the table with butcher paper, wax side down, and place on each:

- A small vase with flowers
- A set of 6 printed texts for the Psalm assigned to the table
- A cup with 6 felt pens
- A small box of crayons
- A set of 6 blank 4x6 index cards with the assigned Psalm on each for that table
- A set of 3-colored 5x8 post-it notes

CAFÉ OUTLINE

Informal conversations around the tables

Welcome & Overview

Assignment of Psalm to each table. You can use a copy of the text on your table or your own Bible or Bible app.

Conversations: Round 1

Introduce yourselves to each other by going around the table and stating your first name, and the city and state in which you were born. **Ready ... Go!**

Each person at the table should now take a felt-tipped pen from the cup on your table. Somewhere in the space in front of you, write the word, "GOD" and underline it. Be sure to leave enough room to build a list below.

Take a copy of your assigned text on the table, or use your own Bible or Bible app and turn to your assigned Scripture text.

As you read through the text, underneath the caption, "GOD":

- write down the chapter and verse,
- and then a summary statement of how you see the author describe God, His character, and/or His actions. **Ready ... Go!**

Where 1 is very meaningful and 6 is least meaningful, rate the top 6 items in the list you just made. **Ready ... Go!**

Select a facilitator at your table. Have them choose a colored post-it note, write the word, "GOD" at the top in capital letters, and underline it.

The facilitator will now lead a conversation by asking each member:

- The chapter and verse of one of your top six insights, a short phrase to categorize it, and a brief explanation of its meaningfulness to you
- He/she will then record your insight on the colored post-it note, ask how many others at the table wrote down something similar, put the tally next to the insight, and circle it.

Ready ... Go!

Take a 4x6 card provided on the table, write the chapter and verse, and a brief summary statement of an insight you want to take with you.

Conversations: Round 2

Put your felt-tipped pens back in the cup

Facilitators can leave their post-it note on the table

Stand up, take your index card and a copy of your assigned text, and move to another table with at least 2 people you haven't "Caféd" with yet. **Ready ... Go!**

Go around the table and introduce yourselves to each other by stating your first name, your favorite leisure activity, and the your assigned text. **Ready ... Go!**

Each person at the table should now take a felt-tipped pen from the cup on your table. Somewhere in the space in front of you, write the word, "MANKIND" and underline it. Be sure to leave enough room to build a list below. **Ready ... Go!**

Using your assigned text or your own Bible or Bible app, read through your text a second time, and underneath the caption, "MANKIND":

- write down the chapter and verse,
- and then a summary statement of how you see the author describe Mankind, our character, and/or our actions. **Ready ... Go!**

Where 1 is very meaningful and 6 is least meaningful, rate the top 6 items in your list you just made. **Ready ... Go!**

Select a facilitator at your table. Have them choose a colored post-it note, write the word, "MANKIND" at the top in capital letters, and underline it.

The facilitator will now lead a conversation by asking each member:

- The chapter and verse of one of your top six insights, a short phrase to categorize it, and a brief explanation of its meaningfulness to you
- He/she will then record your insight on the colored post-it note, ask how many others at the table wrote down something similar, put the tally next to the insight, and circle it.

Ready ... Go!

Using your 4x6 card, write the chapter and verse, and a brief summary statement of an insight you want to take with you.

Conversations: Round 3

Put your felt-tipped pens back in the cup

Facilitators can leave their post-it note on the table

Stand up, take your index card and a copy of your assigned text, and move to another table with at least 2 people you haven't "Caféd" with yet. **Ready ... Go!**

Go around the table and introduce yourselves to each other by stating your first name, the first name of a VIP in your life, and the your assigned text. Ready, Go!

Each person at the table should now take a felt-tipped pen from the cup on your table. Somewhere in the space in front of you, write the letters, "TRCTIR" and underline it. Be sure to leave enough room to build a list below. **Ready ... Go!**

Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:16 "*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*" (ESV)

Using your assigned text or your own Bible or Bible app, read through your text a third time, and underneath the caption, "TRCTIR":

- write down the chapter and verse,
- and then a summary statement of a Teaching, Reproof, Correction, or a discipline for Training In Righteousness given by the author. **Ready ... Go!**

Where 1 is very meaningful and 6 is least meaningful, rate the top 6 items in your list you just made. **Ready ... Go!**

Select a facilitator at your table. Have them take the last colored post-it note, write the letters, "TRCTIR" at the top in capital letters, and underline it.

The facilitator will now lead a conversation by asking each member:

- The chapter and verse of one of your top six insights, a short phrase to categorize it, and a brief explanation of its meaningfulness to you
- He/she will then record your insight on the colored post-it note, ask how many others at the table wrote down something similar, put the tally next to the insight, and circle it.

Ready ... Go!

Using your 4x6 card, write the chapter and verse, and a brief summary statement of an insight you want to take with you.

Conversations: Round 4

Peter writes in 1 Peter 1: 14-16, *"14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"* (ESV)

In a moment, I am going to offer up a prayer for us. At the end of that prayer:

- One-by-one read each insight you wrote on your 4x6 card and thank God for giving it to you,
- Next, turn the card over to the back, and ask, "God, what would you have me to know or do?"
- Write the first thing that comes to your mind. Don't stop writing until the thoughts stop.

When you are done, feel free to leave, check out the insight lists on the wall, or continue a conversation. I will also be posting a blog of this Café on Quakerdale.org this weekend. Thank you for being a part of this Gospel Café

Ready ...

"Father,

Thank you for the conversations you have given us today around your Word. As we review our three insights, we ask you to show us what we need to know or what we need to do to take the next step in becoming holy as You are holy."

... Go!