



# Psalms 51-100



## Reading the Bible Together

October 2014

### What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read the same Bible book through a month, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

*'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.'* (Psalm 119:16)

### Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

### Psalms 51-100 : What can we expect?

The book of Psalms is a collection of songs and poetic prayers from a number of different sources that cover a range of topics, including:

- Songs of praise to God
- Prayers for God's help
- Thanksgiving for answered prayer
- Laments
- Confession

The psalms are an expression of the *experience* of the life of faith. Many of them are personal, conveying the faith, joys, anguish and crises of the believers who wrote them. The psalms encourage us to face up to our sinfulness, to find forgiveness in God, to trust in God's promises, to remind ourselves of what God has done in the past, to commit ourselves to obey and serve God, to rage against injustice, to express our doubts, to rejoice in God's love and faithfulness, to persevere through spiritual barrenness, and to face death with hope. There is no experience common to man that is not echoed in one or more psalms.

The New Testament quotes extensively from the Psalms, often to establish the identity of Jesus as the promised Messiah. Psalm 69 is an example of a psalm full of messianic prophecy. Psalm 72 can be applied to Jesus, David's greater son. It is helpful when reading the psalms to consider them as prayers to Jesus or prayers of Jesus.

### How to read?

Reading two psalms a day will enable you to read through Psalms 51-100 in a month.

If you wanted to memorise some psalms then you could consider the following: Psalm 51, Psalm 62, Psalm 67, Psalm 84, Psalm 92, Psalm 96, Psalm 100.

**In-Sync for November : Luke**