

ACTS OF WORSHIP—CONFESSION/LAMENTATION

Psalm 15:1-6 (NIV)

- ¹ Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?
Who may live on your holy mountain?
- ² The one whose walk is blameless,
who does what is righteous,
who speaks the truth from their heart;
- ³ whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbor,
and casts no slur on others;
- ⁴ who despises a vile person
but honors those who fear the Lord;
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,
and does not change their mind;
- ⁵ who lends money to the poor without interest;
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things
will never be shaken.

QUESTION: How do we enter and live in the presence of God?

1. With _____ of our intentions (vs. 1)
Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."
John 15:5, 9 (NIV)

2. With _____ of the Holy Spirit (vs. 2-5a)
The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart...

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6: 8 (NIV)**

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
John 8:31-32 (NIV)

3. With _____ in Jesus Christ (vs. 5b)
Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)**

For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. **1 Peter 2:2 (NIV)**

NOTES:

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—WEEK OF JULY 26, 2020

Psalms: ACTS of Worship—Confession/Lamentation: Psalm 15:1-6

CONNECT

- What was your favorite game to play as a child? To what degree was winning your motivation for playing?
- How are things with your soul these days?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Prayer of Examine using the acronym "ACTS"

The prayer practice helps us pay attention to God's presence in our lives. It is a short reflection to help you in recalling events and taking note of your feelings. The purpose is to become more aware of the ways in which God has been with you, the times when the Holy Spirit was drawing you towards a deeper way of living your life with Jesus. This ancient practice offers a series of questions to guide you. It is short enough to do in the morning, mid-day, or in the evening before falling asleep. Begin with prayer and listening to the passage together.

Pray: Lord God, send your Holy Spirit to challenge our assumptions and open our hearts.

Listen: Read Psalm 15 aloud.

Respond: Spend 10 minutes reflecting. Use a journal to respond to the prompts.

Adoration: When did I receive the unconditional love, unmerited grace, and uncommon generosity of Jesus today? With joy, begin your prayer by praising God for the gift Jesus is in your life.

Confess/Lament: When did I miss an opportunity to offer Jesus' unconditional love, unmerited grace, and uncommon generosity to others today by my thoughts, actions, and words? In humility, confess the ways you fell short of God's righteousness today.

Thanksgiving: When did I embody the unconditional love, unmerited grace, and uncommon generosity of Jesus today (in my thoughts, actions, and words)? With gratitude, praise God for the way you saw God at work in or around you today.

Supplication: In what specific way do I need the Holy Spirit's power to align my heart with God's heart in my thoughts, actions, and words tomorrow? Close your prayer by telling Jesus the needs and desires of your heart.

Group Sharing: What did you find encouraging or challenging in doing the Prayer of Examine? How was the scripture a helpful guide to you in experiencing lament and confession? Would you be willing to use this as part of your daily rhythm in your time alone with God?

DISCUSSION

- Reflecting on this week's scripture or message, what did you find meaningful or helpful?
- Psalm 15 requires an examination of the heart before entering worship. How would you feel about answering for your thoughts and behaviors in the past week, using the following questions: Have I spoken honestly (vs. 2-3)? Have I honored God even though it might have hurt me (vs 4)? Have I benefited from the distress of the disadvantaged or weak (vs. 5a)?
- What is the source of blessing or happiness in Psalm 15? If this is true, why are we so complacent when it comes to our sin?
- What does David realize about God in this Psalm?
- What does it mean to "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)? How does that connect for you with the promise of John 8:31-32?

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Praying for one another: Share the concerns of your heart so that we can pray for one another.

Closing Benediction: (John 15:10-12)

Jesus says to us: If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.