

BELLEVUE CHRISTIAN

WITH PURPOSE

Week Three: April 27th-May 1st

The devotional on the pages that follow can be used by individuals, families, and small group Bible studies. If you're doing this devotional alone, we encourage you to invite friends and family to join you—beautiful things happen when we invite others to grow with us in our relationships with Jesus!

This devotional has three sections:

1) **Reading:**

- **Key text:** Read this text at least two times. Bonus points if you read it out loud! Look for the main idea and look for a phrase that jumps out at you.
- **Digging deeper:** Use these verses to go deeper into themes from the key text. Use a highlighter to mark ideas that stand out or themes that repeat.

2) **Reflection:** Use these reflection questions to connect your reading directly to your life. Reflect on how God is speaking to you and equipping you through His Word!

3) **Prayer:** This guided prayer is broken up into four sections, using the acronym ACTS:

- **Adoration**—Tell God something that you love about Him.
- **Confession**—Confess your feelings, worries, troubles, and sin to God.
- **Thanksgiving**—Tell God what you're thankful for.
- **Supplication**—Talk to God about what you're needing or wanting.

Throughout your prayers, feel free to return to the specific words and phrases you read in previous sections. One of the many ways we can use God's Word is by turning into prayer!

Key Text: Psalm 65

As you read below, highlight the verbs and phrases that describe what God does.

- ¹ Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.
- ² O you who hear prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.
- ³ When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.
- ⁴ Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!
- ⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas;
- ⁶ the one who by his strength established the mountains,
being girded with might;
- ⁷ who stills the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples,
- ⁸ so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.
You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.
- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide their grain,
for so you have prepared it.
- ¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.
- ¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
- ¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

Looking at the Psalm above, what key phrase stands out to you? Put a box around it!

Digging Deeper:

Psalm 65:2 says God *hears* prayer and Psalm 65:5 says he *answers*. Read and highlight what you notice about God listening and answering His people:

Psalm 34:17-18 The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 Peter 3: 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

Jeremiah 29:12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Matthew 21:21-22 Jesus replied, “truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, “go, throw yourself into the sea” and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

Psalm 66: 18-20 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

Hebrews 4:16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Isaiah 65:24 Before [my people] call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

Read and highlight what you notice about God’s **power** and ability to answer the prayers of His people:

Isaiah 59:1 Listen! The LORD’s arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God.

Jeremiah 32:17 Oh, Lord God! You yourself made the heavens and the earth by your great power and with your outstretched arm. Nothing is too difficult for you!

Matthew 6:30 Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. If that’s how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won’t he do much more for you—you of little faith?

Jeremiah 32:26-27 The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: “Look, I am the Lord, the God over every creature. Is anything too difficult for me?”

Reflection:

Psalm 65:5 says, “by awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness.” Throughout the Bible, we see examples of the people of God rehearsing and remembering what God has done for them. Try it out! Make a list of some of God’s awesome deeds. The things on your list can be examples from the Bible, from history, from your own life, and from the lives of others you know!

Psalm 65: 9-13 describe how God takes care of the earth. What stands out to you from these verses? How does that help you understand God’s care for *you*?

Sometimes it’s hard to believe God *hears* and *answers* our prayers. What are some of the prayers you wonder if he hears? How does this Psalm answer some of those wonders?

Prayer:

Adoration: Praise God by telling Him who He is—the God who hears and answers his people. (hint: use some of the specific words and phrases from the verses you read!)

Confession: Confess the ways you doubt that God hears and answers you. Confess the places you go to be heard and understood, instead of going to God. Confess the areas that are harder for you to trust that he hears you.

Thanksgiving: Thank God that he is always listening to your prayers, answering them, and working in your life. Tell God the stories of the times you have seen him work in your life. Thank him for the times he has been at work in your life that you haven’t even noticed.

Supplication: Ask God for help to believe that he hears you when you pray, then talk to him about what you are feeling and what you are thinking. Are there people in your life who might need help believing God listens and answers them? Pray for them too!