

# A *Psalm* • FOR EVERY OCCASION •

Read the information in the FYI box and your assigned psalm. Then fill in the blanks for your psalm.

In ten minutes, you'll share your conclusions with the others.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Because there are different kinds of psalms, each with its own intention or aim, one goal of interpretation is to identify the psalm's type and what it hopes to achieve. *Complaints* seek God's intervention; *hymns*, God's exaltation; while *psalms of trust* express the psalmist's confidence in and commitment to God. In addition, since psalms use poetic language that is more emotional than analytical and more expressive

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Psalm 13</i></p> <p>TYPE</p> <p>GOAL</p> <p>FEELINGS ABOUT GOD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Psalm 16</i></p> <p>TYPE</p> <p>GOAL</p> <p>FEELINGS ABOUT GOD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Psalm 63</i></p> <p>TYPE</p> <p>GOAL</p> <p>FEELINGS ABOUT GOD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Psalm 103</i></p> <p>TYPE</p> <p>GOAL</p> <p>FEELINGS ABOUT GOD</p>

# Apply-It-To-Life *This Week!*

## Honest Prayers

God always wants us to tell  
him exactly how we feel.  
**Psalms 13:1-6; 16:1-11;  
63:1-11; and 103:1-22**

### *Reflecting on God's Word*

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Each day this week, read one of the following psalms and examine the psalmist talks to God and others. Then consider how you can follow the psalmist's example in your own prayer life. List your discoveries in the space under each passage.

**Day 1: Psalm 8:1-9.** The majesty of creation is reason to praise God.

**Day 2: Psalm 23:1-6.** We can rest confidently in God's care for us.

**Day 3: Psalm 40:1-17.** God wants us to thank him and ask him for help.

**Day 4: Psalm 62:1-12.** We should patiently wait for God to help us.

**Day 5: 2 Psalm 130:1-8.** We can approach God because he forgives our sins.

**Day 6: Psalm 139:1-24.** Nothing we do or say is hidden from God.

### *Beyond Reflection*

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All too often our prayers are vague and lifeless. To infuse your prayer life with life and clarity, write a letter to God at least once a week. In that letter, talk honestly about the problems you're facing, how you feel about those problems, and how you'd like God to help you solve your problems. In addition, list everything good God has done for you during the week, then thank and praise God for his specific acts of kindness. Periodically review the letters for insight into God's activity in your life.

### **Coming Next Study : True Wisdom**

(Proverbs 1:1-7; 24:30-34; and Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; 12:13-14)