

## Small Group Meeting on Psalm 24

### Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship? How is that going? Share those experiences with your small group.

### Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

### Psalm 24 & Revelation 7:9-17

Read the Bible passages for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene. Below, you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

*Shockers* – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

*Blockers* – something from the text that raises questions for you.

### Setting the scene:

- Both of this week's passages focus on Worship. As we look at God as King, this is our main responsibility to him, simply to worship our God who is Holy.

- Psalm 24 speaks of how great God is that he established the world out of the chaos. That in the wildness of all that is going on in our lives, we can be assured that God is on the throne and in control. It goes on to speak of the importance of preparing our lives and our hearts before worship and ends with a call and response as the community worshipped God not alone but together.
- Revelation 7 is a vision of the future. A future where everyone who follows Jesus is gathered together worshipping as one. The symbolism of palm branches reminds us of Palm Sunday and the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:40 and Nehemiah 8), both events declaring the victory of the Lord. Elsewhere in verses 13-14 the passage reminds us of Psalm 51 and a spiritual cleansing before the act of worship at the end of the passage.

## Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. What is some of the chaos in your life, either past or present, that you struggle to believe that God is king over?

Q2. How is our collective worship as a church different to our own personal time with God? What does it mean to you to gather together to worship?

## Respond (20 mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by “walking the talk”. What are you going to be doing this week that will help you seal the faith you have? It may be a challenge or activity that you are currently engaged with over many weeks. Be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

### **Some new challenge ideas**

#### **1 Worship Together**

Make some time to pray and worship God with others this week. Maybe with other Christians in your place of work, with your family or friends who live near you.

#### **2 Declare God’s Victory**

In our ‘What’s God Been Doing?’ slot this week, Emma spoke about how she listed the lies she had believed about herself and brought them before God allowing him to tell her what was true. Make a list for yourself and spend time in prayer asking God to speak truth over you.

#### **3 Prepare your heart**

Before our gathered worship at our services next week, spend some time preparing yourself through repentance and waiting on God.

## Group Prayer

As a group, pray for one another this week as you explore a deeper life with God through prayer. Pray that your times of prayer and your attempt to walk in the light of God’s ways will increase and become more habitual throughout each day.