

It's a job to be Job!

PSALM 31

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

LESSON 16

1. What truth, verse, or insight from last week's study of **Job 22-27** was helpful to you?
2. Pray and ask God to lead and guide you before reading **Psalm 31**. What are your first impressions of this Psalm written by David?

For background: David was a military hero and Israel's King who spent most of his life fighting the enemies of God. Psalm 31 could have been written about the period of his life when King Saul (who should have regarded David as a friend) relentlessly pursued him.

3. How does that background shed light on **V1-4**?
4. Challenge: What do you think it meant when David asked God to "never put me to shame" and "deliver me in Your righteousness"?
5. What specific things did David ask God for in **V2**?
6. From **V3-4**, what words or images resonate with you and why?
7. a) In **V5**, David's words are "Into Your hands I commit my spirit." Describe the circumstance when these words also appeared:
Luke 23:46 _____
Acts 7:59 _____
b) Write a truth about committing your life into God's hand.

8. a) From **V6**, in times of distress, what are “worthless idols” people might be prone to cling to?

b) In what situation are you feeling pulled to trust in worthless idols instead of trusting in the Lord?

9. In **V7-8**, how does David describe the assurance God has given him, and how does this give you assurance?

10. How did David describe the physical distress he was experiencing? (**V9-10**)

11. From **V11-13** who was alienating David, what did they do, and how did that make him feel?

12. a) Amid David's sorrow and distress, in whom does he place his trust in **V14-18**, and describe in your own words what he prayed for?

b) What do you think it means to say, “My times are in your hands” in **V15**?

13. David asked God twice to “let me never be put to shame.” How does he reveal God's answer in **V19-20**, (especially in light of “whispering” and “lying lips” against him)?

14. David experienced alienation by those who were closest to him. How did he respond in **V21**, and how does that inspire you?

15. In your times of alarm or distress, what assurance do you draw from **V22**?

16. What David's advice to faithful followers of God in **V23-24** did you need to hear and why?

17. In a variety of ways David could relate to how "it's a job to be Job."

a) Look for similarities in what they faced:

- **Psalm 31:9-10** with **Job 3:24** and **17:7**

- **Psalm 31:11-12** with **Job 19:13-14**

- **Psalm 31:20** with **Job 5:21**

b) Which one can you identify with the most? Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. David found relief by committing his spirit into God's hands (**V5**) and in knowing his times were in God's hands (**V15a**). What do the following verses teach us about God's Hands

Exodus 15:6_____

Deuteronomy 3:24_____

1 Chronicles 4:10_____

Psalm 44:2-3_____

2. From the story in **Nehemiah 2**, what do you find inspiring in Nehemiah's story as it related to the hand of God (especially in **V18**)?

3. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: **Psalm 31:14-15a**.

b) Form a prayer based on this Lesson.

