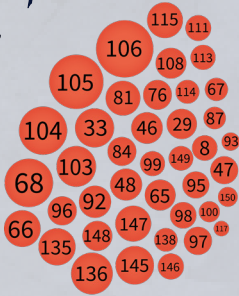
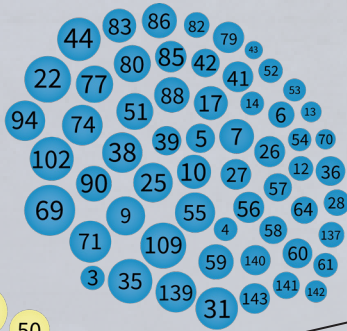


# Types of Psalms

Praise

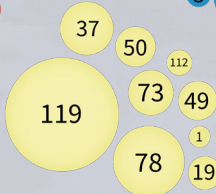


Lament

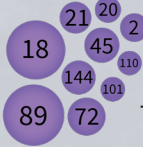


Wisdom

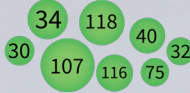
Trust



Royal



Hymn



Thanksgiving

## Bible Study Principles for Psalms

- *Read* it multiple times. Don't rush—ponder the truth.
- *Discover* the context (when possible). Look for the type of Psalm, author, historical background, audience, etc.
- *Observe* the tone, repetition, patterns, themes, verbs, parallelism, contrasts, etc.
- *Ask* questions. After you have made observations, ask WHY?
  - Can you determine the central theme?
  - What emotions and imagery are present?
  - What does the Psalm say about God and man?
- *Reflect* by taking time to meditate, think and apply.
  - Meditate: mull over the text.
  - Contemplate: think about God.

Pursuing Life in Christ

**CALVARY**  
CHURCH

# Guide to Reading the Psalms

“The book of Psalms has supplied believers with some of their best-loved Bible passages. It is a collection of 150 poems that express a wide variety of emotions, including: love and adoration toward God, sorrow over sin, dependence on God in desperate circumstances, the battle of fear and trust, walking with God even when the way seems dark, thankfulness for God’s care, devotion to the Word of God, and confidence in the eventual triumph of God’s purposes for the world” (ESV Study Bible).

The Psalms divide into 5 books. The psalm that ends each book finishes with a doxology, and Psalm 150 as a whole concludes both book 5 and the entire collection. Psalm 1 and 2 serve as an introduction to all 150 Psalms.

		General Themes	Doxology
Intro	Psalms 1-2	The Righteous One	
Book 1	Psalms 1-41	Personal experience (sin & redemption) and the Lord’s (YHWH’s) power over creation	Psalm 41:13
Book 2	Psalms 42-72	David’s Kingship with a focus on God (Elohim)	Psalm 72:18-19
Book 3	Psalms 73-89	Concerning the Temple	Psalm 89:52
Book 4	Psalms 90-106	Concern for Israel and the nations	Psalm 106:48
Book 5	Psalms 107-150	Book of Praise, focus on the Person & Word of God	Psalm 150
Conclusion	Psalms 146-150	A climactic praise to God	

## Things to know about the Psalms

- Psalms are thoughtful reflections on real life, intended to deepen devotion to God and touch our emotions.
- Each Psalm generally focuses on one primary attribute of God.
- Though we think of Psalms as “praise songs,” almost one third are laments, expressing complaint or crying out to God.
- In the original oral culture, the Psalms helped teach and remember truth.
- One key feature of Hebrew poetry is parallelism, where one line repeats, elaborates, contrasts or explains the previous line.