

God's Greatest Hits

Studies in Psalms



Gimme Shelter

Introduction to Psalms 16, 40, 46, 91

- The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life**
- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
 - **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
 - **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
 - **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
 - **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

In 1969 The Rolling Stones song, "Gimme Shelter", pointed out the need for shelter in view of the coming war. The song, in sympathy with the counter-culture of the 60s, underscored what we all feel—that life is dangerous, and we have a need for shelter if we are going to survive. The only shelter that works, though, is that which God provides. His ultimate power and incredible love for His people guarantees that we have a refuge from the dangers that surround us. There are, however, conditions that we must fulfill to experience God's shelter. In Psalm 16 David calls on God to preserve him because he understands that He alone is God, and that good comes from nowhere else. Underlying this psalm is the principle

that in order to receive God's preservation we must appreciate the portion and lot He has given us. Next, in Psalm 40 God's deliverance is extolled for bringing the psalmist out of the "pit of destruction", but it seems that the deliverance wasn't immediate. This underscores the truth that in order to receive God's help we must accept His timing. Actually, being able to wait on God demonstrates authentic trust as much as any other test of faith. In the third Psalm, the forty-sixth, God's help is given to those who appropriate His strength. In the likely event that the future suddenly changes, we must turn to God who is immediately available with help. His power runs like a river through the people of God, and all we must do is appropriate



Singing God's songs helps our hearts connect with His

appropriate that power. Finally, in Psalm 91 we are encouraged to access God's protection by making Him our shelter and our home. When we do we will experience deep security as He promises protection from the evil that surrounds us. Whether it is a deliberate trap or a random arrow, or a deadly disease or venomous snake that could destroy us, God will protect us and give us a long, satisfying life. There is no fear that should paralyze when we say to God, "Gimme shelter".

Daily Study Questions for Psalm 16, 40, 46, 91

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.thehospitalchurch.com/small groups/ABFs/leader resources](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com/small_groups/ABFs/leader_resources))

1. Read Psalm 16:1-6. What had God given the psalmist (v3, 5-6) and how did he feel about this (v2, 4, 5-6)? As a result, how did he pray (v1-2)?	
2. According to Ps 16:7-11 what was the psalmist's confidence (v8, 9-10, 11)? Why did he feel that way (v7, 8, 11) and how can we apply that?	
3. From Ps 40:1-5 how had David responded when in trouble (v1, 4), and what were the results (v1, 2, 3)? What reactions did this lead to (v4, 5)?	

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Psalm 16, 40, 46, 91 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Ps 40:6-10 what did David enjoy doing (v8), and how did he know what this meant (v6, 8)? What else did he do (v9-10)?

5. From Ps 40:11-17 what did David expect (v12, 14), and how did he handle this (v11, 13-15)? Why (v17)?

6. Read Ps 46:1-5. What is our strength for an uncertain future (v1-3)? Based on v5 what “river” (v4) is in the middle of God’s people? What will this (He) do for us (v5)?

7. Looking at Ps 46:6-11 what works has God done in the earth (v6, 8, 9) and how should we respond (v7, 10-11)?

8. According to Ps 91:1-4 what will God do for us(v3-4)? What condition must we meet (v1-2) and how do we do this?

9. In Ps 91:5-13 what else can we expect from God (v5, 6-8, 10, 11-12, 13)? In what sense is this true, and what is our part (v9)?

10. Using Ps 91:14-16 what does God promise us (v14, 15, 16) and what must we do to receive these promises (v14, 15)?

11. Write out one promise of God’s shelter from each psalm (16, 40, 46, 91) and one principle that you must practice to make the promise a reality.

Scripture to Remember

“I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand I will not be shaken.”

Psalm 16:8 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—The Game of Life—Scruples (Honesty)

(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Everyone write down 2 truths and a lie about themselves, pass them out, then try to guess each person’s lie. Discuss how lying affects our relationships.
2. Read Ps 139:23-24. Have you ever asked God to reveal areas of dishonesty to you? If so, how has that process worked? Why is it hard for us to be completely honest?
3. Discuss the meaning of the 4 types of lying—pre-meditated, permissible, phony, and pernicious. Which of those do you encounter most in others? In yourself?
4. Why does dishonesty disconnect us in our relationships? How does it destroy our character and our contentment? Which such a high cost why do we keep doing it?
5. Talk about some specific ways to start the process of becoming completely honest. Once you have identified ways you lie, what are the next steps?
6. Bring up anything else important to you from the message today if you have time.