

## I. Introduction:

The psalm we are studying today is about pilgrimage to the Jerusalem temple. In ancient times, people from all over Israel and all over the world would make an annual pilgrimage to the Jerusalem temple to worship God. This pilgrimage was life changing and life giving for them.

Have you ever taken a trip that was life changing or life giving for you? How so?

## II. Read: Psalm 84:1-12

**84** To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

<sup>1</sup>How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!

<sup>2</sup>My soul longs, yes, faints  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise! *Selah*

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

<sup>6</sup>As they go through the Valley of Baca

they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.

<sup>7</sup>They go from strength to strength;  
each one appears before God in Zion.

<sup>8</sup>O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*

<sup>9</sup>Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!

<sup>10</sup>For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

<sup>11</sup>For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does he withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.

<sup>12</sup>O Lord of hosts,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you!

## III. Into the Bible:

1. What words does the psalmist use to describe his desire for God's house? Why do you think he chose these particular words? What emotions is he expressing?
2. Why do you think this pilgrimage to God's house was so special for the psalmist?
3. What does it mean to be "blessed"? (v4, 5, 12)
4. Do you agree with verse 10? Would you rather be in God's house than anywhere else?

## IV. Application:

This psalm is about pilgrimage to the Jerusalem shows the emotional and even physical longing worshipers had for being in the presence of God. Nothing would stop them from the privilege of being in front of God and in his house. And the reason is because they felt it was life giving. They were spiritually, emotionally and even physically uplifted due to the experience. Today we do not have to pilgrimage to Jerusalem to be in God's presence. God is present in each and every one of us. But because of that, perhaps we take God's presence for granted. Perhaps we take the worship of God for granted.

5. Is the worship of God one of the top priorities in your life?

6. Share a time when you felt like worshiping God was life giving. What about it was life giving?
7. How can you make worshiping God more special for yourself? How can we as a group help each other make worship more special?