

## Marinating in God's Word: Psalm 1

The Psalms shape the language of the New Testament, our worship, and our prayers. Other than that they aren't very important – ha! We're focusing on one Psalm each week.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- The first word in the book of Psalms is “blessed.” We call these blessing words in scripture “beatitudes” (from the Latin for blessed, *beatus*). “Blessed” is one of those words we hear, but are hard pressed to define. How would you define it (in particular in contrast to “lucky” or “happy”)?
- Who do those who don't know Jesus usually see as “blessed” in life?
- Who does Psalm 1 see as “blessed”? Why do you suppose those who gathered the Psalms put a beatitude Psalm first?
- V. 1 tells us in three ways what blessing is not. What are they? How might you paraphrase this for 2020?
- What practical tips would you give for how one can meditate on God's law (v. 2)?
- V. 3 and 4 have similes describing the blessed and the wicked life. What does the symbolism of these images mean?
- V. 5 and 6 tell the outcome of these two ways of living. Describe some people you know whose lives illustrate these paths and their destinations.

Next week as we begin Lent we will focus upon Mark 4:35-41.

