

PSALM SUGGESTIONS FOR PRIVATE READING AND REFLECTION DURING WEEK 7

<u>DAY</u>	<u>PSALM(s)</u>	<u>NOTES TO ACCOMPANY YOUR READING, REFLECTION and PRAYERS:</u>
1	6	Look for the elements of lament in this psalm. Are there any elements of lament with which you can personally identify? What expressions of trust and confidence in God do you see in this psalm?
2	10	There is a long lament about <i>the wicked</i> in vs. 2-11. Which of these acts do you observe to be real in the world as you know it today? Who are the helpless, orphans, meek and oppressed in our world? How does God respond to their needs? In your private devotions, pray for them!
3	22	The first line is remembered as the words Jesus spoke from the cross. What other verses remind you of what happened to Jesus at his crucifixion? In the midst of this lament what words of trust in God do you see? Which words of this psalm can you pray as your personal prayer?
4	44	What might be the circumstances that prompted this lament? When has there been a time for you when you wanted to ask God, " <i>Why do you sleep, O Lord?</i> " (vs. 23)
5	80	Notice the metaphor of the vine. What does this metaphor communicate regarding the relationship between God and the people of Israel? What events of sacred history are alluded to in this psalm?
6	85	What might be a setting/situation that gave rise to this psalm? What lines or verses might be appropriately connected to our national history? Look especially @ vs. 10-11. Can you write a paraphrase of these words?
7	137	What do you see as the setting in which this psalm originated? What do you think is meant by <i>the Lord's song</i> ? What experiences have you had of <i>singing the Lord's song in a foreign land</i> ? Vs. 8-9 are among the most vindictive and vengeful in all of the psalms. Why do you think the psalmist expresses such vengeance?