

## " P E A C E "

### ASCEND: A JOURNEY WITH THE PSALMS OF ASCENT | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | PSALM 120 NOVEMBER 4/5, 2017

*I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me.* (Psalm 120:1)

#### The Journey with God

Psalms of Ascent

Christian life as a journey with God

#### Beginning with the Lord in Our Distress (vss 1-2)

Honest prayer

Hopeful prayer

#### Untangling Falsehood with Divine Truth (vss 3-4)

God's intervention

God's ultimate ends for falsehood

#### Living for Peace in the Midst of Conflict (vss 5-7)

Meshek and Kedar

I am for peace

## STUDY GUIDE

1. What has been the favorite vacation or road trip that you've ever experienced?
2. This weekend we begin a new series, "Ascend," drawn from the Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120-134). Begin your study in prayer, asking God to speak to you through His word, and then read Psalm 120 aloud.
3. *Background:* The Psalms of Ascent are a group of psalms that were likely sung or prayed by people as they traveled in family or neighborhood groups to Jerusalem for festivals and celebrations. These psalms were, in a sense, a soundtrack for their journey. We hope to learn from these psalms what it means to have the right soundtrack for our journey through life with God.
4. What would you say is the psalmist's situation based on verses 1-2 of Psalm 120?
5. How does the psalmist turn his situation into a prayer in verse 1?
6. Verses 3-4 reflect on lying voices around the psalmist. When have you faced liars speaking against you in your life? How did you respond?
7. How does the psalmist reflect on the destiny of the liar in verses 3-4?
8. Verses 5-7 reference Meshek and Kedar, which were barbarous tribes at the outer edges of the land of Israel. It is likely that these references are metaphors for the psalmist feeling surrounded by people who viciously stand against peace. Have you ever felt surrounded by those standing against peace? How has that led you to God?
9. What is one thing that God is speaking to you through this study? If you are on your own, write it down and pray about it. If you are in a small group, take time to discuss this with one another before praying together.

## DAILY READINGS

Throughout this series we will have a daily reading plan that allows us to reflect more deeply on the themes of each psalm we study. Join with the broader Eastbrook community each week via the print schedule below, our app or social media.

Monday, November 6: Psalm 120

Tuesday, November 7: 1 Peter 3:8-17

Wednesday, November 8: Psalm 131

Thursday, November 9: 1 Peter 4:12-19

Friday, November 10: Psalm 41