

START HERE

P S A L M S

GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON START HERE FOR INTEGRITY – Psalm 26

DATE SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Psalm 26

- 1 Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- 2 Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in your faithfulness.
- 4 I do not sit with men of falsehood,
nor do I consort with hypocrites.
- 5 I hate the assembly of evildoers,
and I will not sit with the wicked.
- 6 I wash my hands in innocence
and go around your altar, O LORD,
7 proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- 8 O LORD, I love the habitation of your house
and the place where your glory dwells.
- 9 Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,
nor my life with bloodthirsty men,
10 in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.
- 11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.
- 12 My foot stands on level ground;
in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.



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PSALMS

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SERMON **START HERE FOR INTEGRITY – Psalm 26**

DATE **SEPTEMBER 24, 2017**

1. If you were speaking to a 3rd grader, how would you define what integrity means?
2. Take some time to look through the text of Psalm 26 on the other side of this paper. For this week's exercise, underline all of the 1st person pronouns ("I," "my," or "me"). Does this tell you anything about the nature of the psalm?
3. Read **Psalm 139:23-24** and **Psalm 19:12-14**. What would it take for you to invite the Lord to examine your life for a lack of integrity? Why do we need the Lord's help to examine our hearts (see **Jeremiah 17:9-10**)?
4. Read also **John 3:19-21**. According to Jesus what is the single greatest reason why we do not welcome the Lord's examination of our lives?
5. Consider your life and the conversations you have with others, your social media activities, how you spend your money, and even your walk in Christ. Being honest, where do you see yourself practising what Robbie called, "image maintenance"?
6. Taking the previous question even further, is it okay to post pictures of great things in my life on Facebook? When does it not become okay?
7. Consider again verses 2 and 3. What does it mean that David's integrity is rooted in the "steadfast love" and "faithfulness" of God? List some ways this rooting in God's character and actions affected David's life (see verses 4-8)?
8. Picking up Robbie's wording, when you read verse 8, is it a "stranger" or a "friend" to you? If my heart *is* distant from this truth, how do I draw near to a place of actually desiring the presence of God?
9. If verses 11 and 12 were missing from the psalm, would that be a big deal? What would be lost if those verses were lost?
10. Read **2 Corinthians 3:18** and complete this summary statement from the conclusion of the message:
"The more I become like _____, the more I will live a life of _____."
11. Considering the three psalms of this series - 1, 16 and 26 - which did God speak to you most clearly in, and why?

"It is possible to live one life publicly and another life privately. That is not integrity; it is an invitation for God's discipline." Kenneth Boa