

March Week 4
Thanksgiving and Praise for Faith

- **Text:** Psalm 57:7~11 (March 20)
- **Bottom line:** If we expect and hope for God's salvation, we can praise God in any circumstance.

≡ 1. Praise

(Hymn 27) Majestic Sweetness Sits Enthroned

≡ 2. Prayer

Thank you, God, for calling our family to worship. Give us joy and emotion, and give us an abundance of grace and peace.

≡ 3. The Word

Read Psalm 57:7~11 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody! 8 Awake, my glory!
Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! 9 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises
to you among the nations. 10 For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

<NASB>

7 My heart is steadfast, God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises! 8 Awake, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre! I
will awaken the dawn. 9 I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations. 10 For Your
goodness is great to the heavens And Your truth to the clouds. 11 Be exalted above the heavens, God; May Your glory be above
all the earth.

Understanding Text

David vowed to praise God unwaveringly, even as Saul threatened to kill him. He knew that God was the only one who could remove the shadow of death from him. Even in the midst of suffering, he wakes up at dawn with the belief that only God can help him and save him, giving thanks and glory to God.

□ Understanding the text for leaders

The description of the psalm is that it was sung when David was in a cave to escape from Saul. This is from 1 Samuel 24, where David prayed earnestly while hiding from Saul in a cave in the wilderness of En-gedi. David once fled to the land of Nob when Saul tried to kill him. At that time, Ahimelech, a priest in the land of Nob, gave food to David and his soldiers who were hungry and helped them escape. A man named Doek told Saul about this, and David escaped with his life before Saul arrived. But all the priests in the land of Nob were slain by Saul's sword. David heard about this as he ran from place to place, and he was terrified, feeling that death was just around the corner. With nowhere else to run, David hid in a cave in the wilderness of En-gedi, where he prayed earnestly to God in Psalm 57. With death just around the corner, David had only God to rely on. So I pray that God will hold me safely under my wings, and that He will save me from the impending death. David, who was praying anxiously, became more and more convinced of God, and confessed and praised God that He would surely save him. He decides that he will make it through today, that tomorrow he will face the dawn, and that he will wake up and play an instrument. I also declare that I will sing about God's salvation before all people and in all the world until I am lifted up on high all the time. David's determination not to betray his trust in God even in difficult situations is a strong relief to my fearful and anxious heart.

4. Sharing

1) What did David, who was under threat of death, decide to turn to God? (verse 7).

■ Upper Grades

What does David commit to doing in the face of challenges? (verse 7).

■ Lower Grades

What does David say he will do in the face of difficulties? (verse 7).

□ Question Guide

Consider how David responds to Saul's threat to kill him, and what it means to respond in faith when a crisis comes.

□ Comments for Leaders

When David was being pursued by Saul, he was in a situation where he could not praise him. However, he remembered God who had saved him from the claws of lions and bears (1 Samuel 17:37) and used him to destroy Goliath (1 Samuel 17:48~49), and he was confident in God's help to save him. So David was able to praise God for His salvation instead of fear, even when he could have died.

"And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" (1 Samuel 17:37).

"When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground." (1 Samuel 17:48~49).

2) Looking at David, who praised God even in the midst of suffering, share with one another what praise you want to give to God now .

■ **Upper Grades**

Sing your favorite hymn in front of your family.

■ **Lower Grades**

Say what your favorite song is and sing it along.

□ **Question Guide**

David praised God, thinking more about God to save him than the hardships and crises that surrounded him. Share what you would like to sing when you are having a hard time.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

The reason why David was able to praise God in the midst of his suffering was because he had faith and confidence that God would surely save him. The reason David was able to have such faith and confidence is because he had experienced God's saving grace many times in times of crisis in his life, such as winning a battle against Goliath. Like David, people experience all kinds of hardships, problems, and crises. If you were to sing about the God who will save you, the God who will guide you and keep you, please share what kind of praise you would like to give. If your children don't know what to sing, you can let them know what you want to sing and take the time to learn with them.

≡ **5. Thanksgiving**

Thank You God for saving us and still loving us.

≡ **6. Prayer**

God, give us the faith to trust and praise you for your salvation in any situation. May the glory and gratitude to God overflow our lips, and let nothing else distract us, but only look to You.

- End the family worship service with the "The Lord's Pray

