

SPECIAL LESSON

Psalm 27 (OSB 26): Courage and Waiting on the Lord

Bible Study Preparation and Materials Needed:

Reflecting on: Psalm 27 (OSB 26) - God as the Good Shepherd

For the Lesson: Orthodox Study Bible or Holy Bible: Armenian Church Edition

Recommended Orthodox Study Bible [HERE](#).

Recommended Holy Bible: Armenian Church Edition [HERE](#).

Optional Practice

If time permits, begin or conclude this Bible study with an antiphonal Psalm reading. Have students read the psalm aloud in two groups, line by line. Encourage them to hear David's emotion, allowing it to become their own prayer.

Memory Verse:

**The Lord is my light and my savior; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the defender of my life; whom shall I dread?
- Psalm 27:1**

Bible Study Lesson

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Բո՛ւ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Բո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, ee paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

A Reflection on Psalm 27 (OSB Psalm 26): Courage and Waiting on the Lord

Psalm 27 (OSB 26)

1 Of David; before he was anointed.

*The Lord is my light and my savior;
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the defender of my life;
whom shall I dread?*

*2 When the wicked drew near against me
to eat up my flesh,*

*Those who afflict me and are my enemies,
they weakened and fell.*

*3 Though an army should array itself against me,
my heart shall not be afraid;*

*Though war should rise up against me,
in this I shall hope.*

*4 One thing I ask from the Lord; this I will seek,
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,*

*And behold the delights of the Lord,
And visit His temple.*

*5 For He hid me in His tabernacle
in the day of my troubles;*

*He sheltered me in the secret place of
His tabernacle; He set me high upon a rock.*

*6 And now, behold, He has lifted up my head
above my enemies;*

I went around and offered

in His tabernacle a sacrifice of joy;

I will sing to the Lord, and praise Him with the harp.

7 O Lord, hear my voice, wherein I cry;

Have mercy on me and hear me.

*8 My heart speaks to You; my face seeks You;
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.*

*9 Do not turn away Your face from me;
Do not turn away from Your servant in wrath;*

*Be my helper; do not utterly cast me away,
Nor forsake me, O God my savior.*

*10 For my father and my mother forsook me,
But the Lord laid hold of me.*

*11 Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of Your law;
Set me on a straight path because of my enemies.*

*12 Do not deliver me to the souls
of those who afflict me,*

*For unjust witnesses rise up against me;
And injustice lies to itself.*

*13 I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.*

14 Wait on the Lord;

*Be courageous, and strengthen your heart,
And wait on the Lord.*

Have you ever been so afraid that it felt like your heart would stop? Maybe it was walking into a new school where you didn't know a single face. Maybe it was standing in front of others, your voice shaking. Maybe it was hearing devastating news that changed everything, or lying awake at night feeling crushed by the weight of life. Fear doesn't always announce itself with monsters and darkness. Sometimes it whispers as anxiety that tightens your chest. Sometimes it's uncertainty that makes every decision feel impossible. Sometimes it's just that gnawing emptiness when you feel utterly alone, like no one sees you, no one understands, and no one cares.

Psalm 27 begins with a bold declaration: *"The Lord is my light and my savior; whom shall I fear?"* This isn't the voice of someone who's never been afraid. This is the voice of someone who has known real terror and has chosen to trust God in the middle of the fear. David had real enemies plotting his death. He faced betrayal by those he loved most. He knew the loneliness of isolation, running for his life with constant threats of violence.

But notice: David doesn't start with his fears. He starts with who God is. Light. Savior. Defender. This is the foundation of true courage: not pretending danger doesn't exist, but choosing to believe that God is infinitely bigger than anything threatening to destroy us.

The Lord Is My Light

"The Lord is my light and my savior; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defender of my life; whom shall I dread?" (v. 1)

David doesn't claim to be fearless. He claims God as his light, the one who helps him see truth when life feels suffocatingly dark. Fear thrives in confusion and uncertainty. It grows when we can't see the way forward, when we don't know what will happen next. But when we fix our eyes on God's character (His unwavering mercy, His sovereign power, His perfect goodness), fear begins to lose its stranglehold on our hearts.

Light reveals what's real and exposes what's false. When God is our light, we see differently. The enemy that looked unbeatable is suddenly small compared to our Creator. The future that seemed hopeless is held in the hands of the One who conquered death itself. When you turn on a light in a dark room, the darkness doesn't fight back. It simply vanishes. That's what God does with our fear. He doesn't always remove what frightens us, but His presence drives out the darkness that makes us feel hopeless and alone.

Q: *What do you usually turn to when you feel overwhelmed or afraid? Does it actually help you, or does it just numb you or distract you temporarily? What would it look like to turn to God first instead?*

One Thing I Seek

"One thing I asked from the Lord, this I will seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." (v. 4)

In the middle of life-threatening danger, David's deepest longing isn't for escape. It's for closeness with God. He's not praying, "Make this all go away." He's praying, "Don't leave me. Be near to me in this."

David understands something profound: the presence of God is where true peace, clarity, and strength are found. Not in the absence of problems, but in the presence of God within the problems. That's why he doesn't just ask once. He seeks. He pursues. He doesn't give up. Seeking means staying focused, pressing in, refusing to stop even when answers don't come quickly or circumstances don't change.

To dwell in the house of the Lord means to live continually aware of God's presence. Not just in church or during prayers, but in every moment, every decision, every fear. It means making God our home, our refuge, the place our souls return to again and again when everything else feels unstable.

Imagine living in God's presence every moment. Talking to Him throughout the day. Bringing Him every fear, every doubt, every joy, every frustration. Seeing every circumstance through the lens of His love and power. That's what David longs for. Not a life without problems, but a life lived so close to God that nothing can separate them.

Q: *What does it look like practically to seek God when life gets difficult? How is that different from simply asking Him for help once and then trying to fix everything yourself? What would change if you made seeking God your first response instead of your last resort?*

When God Feels Silent

“Hear me, O Lord, I cry with my voice. Have mercy on me and hear me. My heart speaks to You, my face seeks You; Your face, O Lord, I will seek.” (vv. 7–8)

Notice the shift. David is no longer proclaiming confidence. He’s crying out. His voice is raw. His need is desperate. This shows us something crucial: courage and fear can exist in the same heart at the same time. It’s not wrong to feel scared. It’s not weak to cry out to God with tears streaming down your face. What matters is where we direct those cries.

We live in a world that tells us to be strong, to have it all together, to never show weakness. But David shows us a different way. Honest, raw prayer is more powerful than pretending. God can handle our questions, doubts, anger, confusion, and desperation. He isn’t afraid of our emotions. He invites us to bring all of them to Him.

In verse 8, we see authentic faith: *“Your face, O Lord, I will seek.”* To seek someone’s face meant to desire their presence, to long for relationship, not just to ask for help. David isn’t merely praying for circumstances to change. He’s praying to encounter God Himself, to know Him more deeply, to experience His nearness even if nothing else changes.

This is where most of us struggle. We want God to fix our problems. David wants God, period. He understands that knowing God (truly knowing Him, experiencing His presence) is worth more than comfort without Him. He would rather face danger with God than safety without God.

Q: *Have you ever felt like God was silent during your darkest fear? What did that feel like? What helped you keep praying even when you couldn’t hear His voice or feel His presence? Or did you stop praying? If so, what would it take for you to start again?*

Wait for the Lord

“Wait on the Lord; be courageous, and strengthen your heart, and wait on the Lord.” (v. 14)

The psalm ends with a repeated command: wait. David says it twice, as if he knows how hard this is. But this is not passive, defeated waiting. This is active, defiant trust. It’s saying, “I will not give up. I will not stop believing. I will not let fear win, even if I have to wait longer than I thought I could bear.”

Courage is not the absence of fear. It’s the refusal to surrender to fear. It’s the decision to keep trusting when trust feels impossible. To “strengthen your heart” doesn’t mean to harden it or stuff down emotions. It means to anchor your heart in truth: God has not abandoned you. He sees every tear. He hears every prayer. His timing is not your timing, but His presence is always near, and His promises never fail.

This is the mystery of courage: it grows in the waiting. When we don’t yet see answers, when we’re still afraid, when the darkness hasn’t lifted, that’s when we lean into God. And somehow, that leaning becomes our strength. Not because we become stronger in ourselves, but because we discover that God Himself is holding us up.

Waiting on the Lord means trusting that God is working even when we can’t see it. It means believing His silence is not absence. It means holding onto hope when hope feels foolish. And it means discovering that the God we were waiting for was with us in the waiting all along.

Waiting doesn’t mean nothing is happening. Some of God’s most important work happens in the waiting. In the waiting, we learn to trust. Our faith deepens. We discover what we really believe. We learn to distinguish between what we want and what we need. God prepares us for what He’s prepared for us.

Q: *What does it mean to you personally to “wait on the Lord”? How is that different from just being passive or giving up? What are you waiting for right now? How does it feel? And can you trust that God is working even in this waiting?*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.