

Youth Teaching Resources

February 21, 2016



Transfiguration Sunday

Who Needs a King? — Psalm 99

Season of Lent (February 10-March 26)

Who Needs a Rescuer? — Psalm 91 (RCL 91:1-2, 9-16)

Who Needs a Light? — Psalm 27

Who Needs God? — Psalm 63 (RCL 63:1-8)

www.baptiststoday.org

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www.nurturingfaith.net

Find links and videos related to this lesson.

Who Needs a Light?

Psalm 27

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

TEACHER PREPARATION: YOUTH AND THIS LESSON

Confidence. Many, if not most of our students have it. At times, it may seem like they have an abundance of it. So much so, that we question the decisions that they make because of it. Sometimes this over-confidence is because they are trying to hide something they are truly afraid of. Other times, they really are that confident in who they are. In the opening stanza of Psalm 27 we hear “whom shall I fear?” It could probably be the status of many of our youth at any point in time. What is important for our students to remember is that our confidence doesn’t begin with us, but comes from the first part of this verse: “The Lord is my light and salvation.” Confidence should begin with our love of God, not our love for ourselves.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

Begin your session by showing the clip “Freedom Speech” from *Braveheart*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability, and then facilitate a discussion using the following questions:

- 1) How does William Wallace show his confidence in the men?
- 2) How do the men show their confidence in William Wallace?
- 3) How do you show your confidence?
- 4) Where does your confidence come from?
- 5) What role does your faith play in the confidence that you have?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading Psalm 27. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information from THE BIBLE LESSON in *Baptists Today*.

When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What is God’s care described in this psalm? How does this reassure you?

- 2) What is the source of the outward courage of the psalmist?
- 3) Where does the psalmist think that God has gone?
- 4) Does the psalmist think that God is gone forever? How will God return?
- 5) What ties the first and second part of this psalm together? How can you hold onto this when you feel both ways about God?

If your group would like to continue their discussion on this passage, share some of the insights provided in “Digging Deeper” (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide). You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) How is this psalm similar to Psalm 23? How is it different than Psalm 23?
- 2) What meaning is there in Psalm 27 being dedicated to David?
- 3) Why would the psalmist use a phrase of an army shouting before battle as a shout for joy to God?
- 4) How does the image of God as a parent work? How does it not work?

You may also want your group to discuss “The Hardest Question” (NF Online Adult Teaching Guide): Is Psalm 27 one psalm or two?

Transformation

Conclude your session by creating space for your youth to practice *Lectio Divina* using Psalm 27 as your text. You may find resources online to help you guide you through the spiritual practice if you have not led it before. For the purposes of your group, you may want to allow students the opportunity to share their reflections after each phase of the practice.

Close with a prayer thanking God for allowing us to speak our mind when it is positive or negative toward God.