

# Week Seventeen

## YEAR ONE

### Read

Psalms

### Focus

Notice how the Psalms are grouped in the Bible and reflect on why they are arranged in that way.

Identify a psalm that illustrates each of the following categories:

- complaints;
- hymns of praise;
- royal psalms;
- thanksgivings

## YEARTWO

### Read

Powell, Chapter 10, “New Testament Letters” and Chapter 11, “Paul,” pages 215–53

Hyperlinks 10.1–10.4 at [www.IntroducingNT.com](http://www.IntroducingNT.com)

### Focus

Information about New Testaments letters: Pastoral Epistles; Prison Letters; Catholic Epistles; *cuneiform*; *ostraca*; *papyrus*; *amanuensis*; structure of epistles; *chiasm*

Authenticity: pseudepigraphy; Muratorian fragment

Using the material in Powell’s Chapter 11, construct a first-person spiritual autobiography of Paul’s life. For example, identify ten to twelve events that cover his entire life: “I was born and raised as a member of the people of Israel within the tribe of Benjamin”; “I lived as a Pharisee observing the Jewish law”; “I studied and the feet of Gamaliel.” Read through the events of Paul’s life to get a sense of the flow of his life as a whole.

Note the different experiences Paul had that shaped his spirituality—how he prayed and worshiped; revelations and/or visions he reported; and other experiences that formed his relationship with God.

Key theological ideas of Paul's theology to know: gospel (*euangelion*); Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension; life after death; being made right with God (justification); new age of God; nature of Jesus

### YEAR THREE

#### Read

MacCulloch, Chapter 11, "The West: Universal Emperor or Universal Pope," pages 363–95

#### Focus

Recounting waves of renewal:

monastic revival in England; Cluny Abby's legacy; agrarian economy; pilgrimage piety; origin of purgatory; Peace of God movement

Power and authority:

universal monarchy; marriage as sacrament; rise of papacy—from Vicar of Peter to Vicar of Christ; clerical celibacy; dividing lay and clergy

### YEAR FOUR

#### Read

Allen, Chapter 11, "The Temptations in the Wilderness," pages 107–16

#### Focus

Theological concepts and their significance to note:

biblical use of the number forty; Jesus' three temptations for ministry in daily life; misguided theology based on premise: faith in God means being protected from harm; Matthew 5:45b; felicity and joy in God's presence; self-limitation of Jesus; hiddenness of God



### ALL YEARS

Ministry is supported by our spirituality and is about our relationships with God, with people we encounter, and with the world we inhabit; i.e., all creation.

#### Respond

Compare the way that people in the lesson understood God's actions with your understanding; for example, do they understand God as active in or removed from the world, as vindictive or caring? Explain the effect of those understandings on their/your relationship with God, each other, and society.

Describe how participating in prayer and worship influences your ministry.

**Practice**

Dean Holmes employed five features to develop a generic and experiential definition of spirituality. The first feature he explored was the capacity for relationship: “Spirituality is our openness to relationship, which is a universal capacity involving the whole person.” Use the following to guide you in reflecting on spirituality and ministry in your life.

**Identify** Consider the various contexts of your life, e.g., work, friends, family, times of leisure, study, physical life. How have you experienced being open to relationship within those various contexts and other contexts you might name?

**Explore** An image or metaphor describes how one understands the circumstances of one’s life and can be likened to a snapshot of creation, that is, the known world is like the image in some way. What metaphor or image expresses what it is like to be open to relationship in any of those contexts? What questions do you have for the image-world? What questions explore the “snapshot” from the standpoints of sin, judgment, repentance, or redemption?

**Connect** Make connections between the image and our Christian tradition and/or the EfM lessons; our society or the culture we inhabit; and personal values or beliefs about openness to relationship. Write belief/value statements.

**Apply** In terms of openness to relationship, what do you see that you have not seen before? What contributes to and has implications for ministry in your life and for developing a sustaining spirituality?