

## BEFORE YOU PRAY: THE PRE-PRAYER PSALMS

Psalm 1-2

### DO YOU EVER WONDER IF GOD HEARS YOU WHEN YOU PRAY?

*God doesn't answer prayer if:*

- *You ask with selfish motives. James 4:3*
- *You've done evil to others. Isaiah 1:15*
- *You have unconfessed sin. Psalms 66:18*
- *You worship idols over God. Ezekiel 14:3*
- *You disregard the poor. Proverbs 21:13*
- *You doubt God. James 1:5-7*

*"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."*

—Martin Luther

*"When faith ceases to pray, it ceases to live." "We must remember that the goal of prayer is the ear of God. Unless that is gained the prayer has utterly failed." —E.M. Bounds*

### THE FIRST TWO PSALMS PREPARE US TO PRAY THE PSALMS

*Pillar #1: Delighting In What God Has Done: The Torah-Teaching Of God*

*Pillar #2: Placing Our Hope In The One To Come: The Messiah King*

### PSALM 1: DELIGHTING IN WHAT GOD HAS FAITHFULLY DONE

### PSALM 2: PLACING OUR HOPE IN THE COMING MESSIAH-KING

*"Hagah", translated as "meditate" in Psalm 1 and as "plot" in Psalm 2.*

#### Questions For Reflection and/or Discussion:

- Have you experienced times when you feel God didn't listen to your prayers? Why do you think that was the case?
- Have you ever been taught to pray? If so, how? How might someone use the book of Psalms to help them to pray?
- Psalms chapters 1 and 2 serve to prepare us for prayer. How does Psalm chapter 1 prepare us to pray? How does Psalm 2 prepare us to pray? Are these elements of prayer present in your prayer life?