

Growth Teams

Week Beginning
Sunday 3rd May 2015

Going deeper

In the Bible leaders are often described as 'shepherds of the people.' In Ezekiel 34, God describes the actions of the bad leaders of Israel using this metaphor before describing how he will lead them.

Read Ezekiel 34:1-31

5. What was wrong with the 'shepherds of Israel' (vs. 1-6)? How had they failed to fulfil the hopes of Psalm 72?

6. How does God feel about these shepherds and what will he do to them (vs. 7-10)?

7. How will the lives of the 'sheep' be better with God as their shepherd (vs. 11-16, 25-31)?

8. What kind of justice will God bring to the flock (vs. 17-22)?

9. In verses 23-24, God talks about David as the shepherd of the sheep. Read John 10:11-15. How does Jesus (the Son of David) prove that he is the 'good shepherd'?

Now turn over and do 'Applying it to our lives'.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

What do we want from our government?

Psalm 72 (page 585)

Space to take notes on the talk

Psalm 72 – A _____

What do we want from our government?

❖ _____

1. _____

2. _____

❖ _____

3. _____

4. _____

❖ _____

5. _____

6. _____

Starter question

- What key qualities do you think a leader should have?

Responding to the talk

1. Is there anything from this week's talk that you would most like to talk about?
2. Read Psalm 72:1-4
 - a. What kind of justice and righteousness should the king have?
 - b. What type of people will he most look to save? What else does the Psalm say about his care for these people?
 - c. Why is a sense of justice so important for rulers?
3. Read Psalm 72:5-7
 - a. What point is verse 6 trying to make?
 - b. Look at the rest of the Psalm. Which other verses point to 'abounding prosperity' (verse 7)? Where does the wealth come from?
 - c. If we shouldn't be greedy, why is it right to pray for prosperity in our nation?
4. Read Psalm 72:8-11
 - a. What kind of relationship does the Psalm hope the king has with the rest of the world?
 - b. How does this fit with the idea of the king blessing the other nations? (vs. 17)
 - c. How should our country relate to other countries?

If there is time, you may like to do the 'Going deeper' questions over the page. Otherwise please just jump to questions 10 and 11.

Applying it to our lives

10. In what ways other than voting can we influence our government to act in the ways suggested by this Psalm?
11. How should we pray for this Thursday's election and the resulting government?