

# Psalm 67

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### Welcome

- It's harvest time – What is your favourite fruit or vegetable and why?
- What one thing are you most thankful to God for and why?

### Word

Read Psalm 67

1. What did the psalm writer ask the Lord to do? (verse 1)
2. Why did the psalm writer want the Lord to bless him and his people? (verse 1 & 2)
3. How should everyone respond to the way God guides His people? (verse 4)
4. In what specific way did Israel want to experience God's blessing? (verse 6)
5. And what would be the result of this? (verse 7)
6. What is the line that is repeated in this psalm?
7. What would you say the main theme of this Psalm is?
8. This psalm is a prayer - how is this prayer relevant to us today?
9. How do you think we should follow the psalm writer's example in asking for God's blessings?
10. How can you ensure you have the right motivation when you present your requests to God?
11. In what ways does God bless us?
12. How should we respond to God's blessings?
13. In what ways can you praise God? Which ones do you find most helpful?
14. You could say that the blessings we receive from God are undeserved – how do you feel about that? Does it make you feel uncomfortable?
15. In what specific way would you like to experience God's blessing in your life?

16. How can we cultivate a deeper appreciation for God's blessings in our lives, moving beyond superficial uses of the term 'blessed'?
17. In what ways might our understanding of blessing shift if we focus on a face-to-face relationship with God rather than material possessions or circumstances?
18. Do your emotions affect your prayers? How? Is this good or bad?

*In Psalm 67: 1, there is a prayer that God's "face would shine upon us." Now obviously God doesn't have a face that glows, because God is spirit. But the imagery here alludes to the countenance of a king. If the king's face shined upon you, it meant that he was favourable to you. If the king's face was turned against you, it meant you were in danger of judgment.*

19. Does the concept of 'God's face shining upon us' (v1) challenge or comfort you?
20. Take a look at Psalm 34:16 and 1 Peter 3:12 which talk about the face of God. Now, putting these passages together, why would God's face be turned one way or another?
21. If God's face is against you, what does that feel like?
22. What happens when God's face is toward you?

*Psalm 67 is most definitely a prayer for the nations or a global prayer. It is a prayer from the heart of God's people (the Israelites) to share their blessings with the rest of the world. This is what God wanted them to do, but they often forgot this!*

23. How does Psalm 67 encourage us to view God's blessings? Are they personal, communal, or global?
24. Do you think this Psalm promotes unity among the nations? Is there anything we can do to encourage global unity?
25. How can the message of universal salvation impact our relationships and interactions with people from different cultures and faiths?
26. How can you practically use the themes of Psalm 67 to foster unity in your community?

27. Can you help to 'make God's ways known on earth' as stated in verse 2 and if yes, how? What steps can we take to move from merely receiving God's blessings to actively sharing them with others, particularly those outside our immediate circles?

## Optional Extra

The words of verse 1 are often used as a benediction:

*"The Lord bless thee and keep thee:  
The Lord make his face shine upon thee,  
And be gracious unto thee:  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,  
And give thee peace."* (Song 1040 in the SASB)

Read and reflect on some of the other 'benedictions' found in scripture:

Numbers 6:24–26;	Ephesians 6:23-24; 1
Psalms 67:1–2;	Thessalonians 3:11–13; 5:23–24, 28;
Romans 15:5–6; 15:13;	2 Thessalonians 2:16–17; 3:5, 16, 18;
1 Corinthians 16:22–23;	Philemon 25;
2 Corinthians 13:14;	
Galatians 6:18;	
Hebrews 13:20–21	

*Definition of Benediction: A prayer of blessing – often (but not always) used at the end of a church service*

# Worship & Witness

Psalm 67 is a great passage to pray through as a group. The following is a guide to help you pray through this Psalm.

1. "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us" (v. 1)

Thank God for the salvation He has given us through Jesus Christ.

Thank God for the ultimate blessing, knowing Him

Pray that the Lord will open your eyes to how great a salvation He has given you (Eph. 3:14-19)

2. "That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations..let the peoples praise you O God, let all the peoples praise you" (v. 2-5)

Think again about how horrible it is to not know Christ and pray that God might open your eyes to people's need.

Pray that God's salvation might reach the nations.

Pray for the nations that particularly need our prayers.

Think about people you know at work, in your family, praying they might realise the blessing you have in knowing God.

3. "The earth has yielded its increase....let all the ends of the earth fear Him!" (v. 6-7)

Thank God for the change He has brought in you since becoming a Christian.

Thank God for signs of spiritual growth recently in you and in others

Pray that Jesus would be known by others around you as you walk closely with Jesus and live a life of spiritual holiness around them.