

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Group Discussion Guide | June 14

### **Series overview and leader instructions**

“Not Alone” is an 11-week journey through the Old Testament, tracing God’s desire to dwell with His people and His faithful work to bring redemption. Through every season—deliverance, provision, rebellion, exile, and restoration—we see one unified story of grace, pointing to Jesus and the promise of God dwelling with His people forever.

The sermons in this series will take a fly-over, covering multiple chapters—and sometimes multiple books—in a single sermon. You may find that some people in your group may be unfamiliar with these stories and benefit from some additional context.

We recommend incorporating videos from The Bible Project books of the Bible overview videos as needed. As the leader, you can decide whether to watch the videos as a group or send them out in your group chat or via email for people to watch on their own, or some combination of the two. Recommended videos will be linked in each week’s group guide.

Here is the overview video of Psalms: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/psalms/>

As always, use the group discussion guide below in the way that works best for *your* group. Linger on questions that yield fruitful discussion. Break into pairs or smaller groups for conversation or keep the discussion in the larger group. You know your group! Use this guide as a template but make it your own.

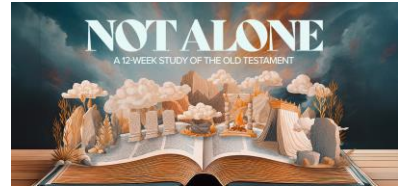
### **Opening reflection questions (10 minutes).**

*Begin your time together by inviting people to share their answers to the following:*

- What new idea did you learn from the Bible Project video? What stood out?
- Do you have a favorite Psalm? Which one? Why?
- From a 30,000 ft perspective, are you naturally drawn to the book of Psalms or is it a book you tend to shy away from? Explain.

### **Discuss the sermon and book of Psalms (45 minutes).**

- What stood out to you or challenged you from Emerson’s sermon?



All of us were made to be with God in God's House. That why many of the Psalms iterate the idea that "Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere..." (Psalm 84:10). However, many of us, if we're honest, might look at our own lives and wonder if that is the sentiment we carry in our own hearts.

- Do you feel like the end or purpose of your life is to be with God in God's House forever? Why or why not?
- What are common, everyday things that maybe obscure God's House from your view? Or that keep you from feeling like the Psalmist in Psalm 84:10?

In his sermon, Emerson said the Psalms direct our hearts towards our true home, but they also teach us how to get to our true home: By following God's law!

- According to Psalm 1, God's law is something to be "meditated on day and night" because it makes us like trees firmly rooted and fruit-bearing. When you think about Christianity, do you think of it in terms of obedience to God's law? Explain.
- Read Matthew 5:17-20. What does Jesus think about God's law?
- How might remembering God's wonderful deeds help us in thinking about living by God's laws for our lives?

In his sermon, Emerson made mention that the Psalms are REAL. Real people wrestling. Real people praising. Real people lamenting. Real people remembering. Real people delighting in God.

- How would you categorize your prayers to God in this season of your life (e.g. lament, struggle, praise, remembering, etc.)?
- What kind of prayer would you like to see yourself offering to God more in this season of life?
- Emerson gave us three applications to get into the Psalms: (1) Start the Psalms (i.e. just read them); (2) Pray the Psalms; and (3) Steep in the Psalms. Which of these might be the next right step for you? Explain why.
- Did anything else from the sermon stand out to you?

### **Closing prayer (10 minutes).**

Consider closing by praying a Psalm together. Pick a Psalm and use it as a sort of outline in your closing prayer. Use the structure of that Psalm, use some of the verbiage. It doesn't have to be perfect, just honest!