



## THINK IT THROUGH

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Why is it so important to share what God has done in our lives with others?  
Why do you think we are sometimes slow to do this with other Christians, let alone those who are not-yet-Christians?

Let's learn from the writer of this psalm and be quick to share with each other what God has been doing for us.

If we were quicker to share God's blessings with each other do you think this might help us be quicker (and more natural) with those who don't yet know Jesus? Discuss.



## TAKE ACTION

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Resolve, with God's help, to respond to answers to prayer with:

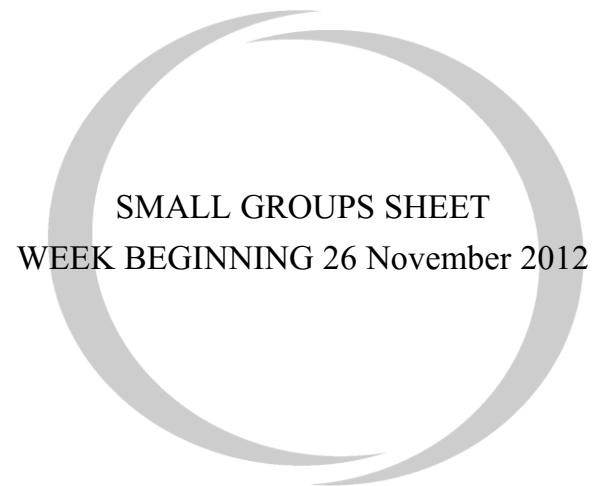
- Fresh expressions of TRUST (i.e. more prayer!)
- Fresh COMMITMENT
- Public TESTIMONY

*Why not start tonight?*



## PRAY IT THROUGH

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SMALL GROUPS SHEET  
WEEK BEGINNING 26 November 2012

**Psalm 116 – You heard my cry!**

Oakhall  
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



## FOR STARTERS

For many of us the biggest problem with prayer is not what words to use but whether it is really worth it... will our prayers have any effect... will God do anything? We can find ourselves talking to others for ages about our concerns but we don't get round to talking to God about them. Part of the reason for this is our uncertainty about the effectiveness of prayer. This psalm has lots of encouragement for us.



## BACKGROUND

We're not sure who wrote this psalm but it is a great example of how we can not only learn from the psalms but actually use them ourselves as we come before God and speak to him.

### Read Psalm 116



## INVESTIGATE

The psalm begins with a beautiful declaration – “I love the LORD...”

- What is this based on (v1-2a)?
- How does this motivate his prayer life (v2b)?

### WHAT THE PSALMIST REMEMBERS

Try and piece together the situation that the writer was in (v3, v8, v10, v11).

Verse 6 mentions the “simple-hearted”. Normally in the O.T this phrase means ‘the foolish’. If that is the case here, what is he saying about his situation?

How does he respond to his desperate situation (v4)?

(Note: the verb “called” implies a continuous “I called and called and called.”)

He appeals to the “*name of the LORD*” – what’s the significance of this?

Identify the different aspects of God’s name / character in v5-6.

How do these encourage the palmist (and us) to pray? Note how this happens in v10. How has God answered his prayers (v6, 7, 8)?



## THINK IT THROUGH

In what sense can this prayer be our prayer:

- For personal salvation?
- In times of trial and difficulty?

Verse 10 is the key to the Psalm. How does this help explain why we often pray so little?



## INVESTIGATE

### WHAT PSALMIST RESOLVES

Verse 12 is a vital question. He tells us about 3 ways he plans to respond:

#### Verse 13

If the cup of salvation is something he has received from God (he has been rescued!) what does he mean by lifting up that cup? How is that linked to ‘calling on your name’? How is this an appropriate response to God?

#### Verse 16

How would you summarise his response here? Compare the N.T equivalent (Rom 6:18).

#### Verses 17-19

A little background may help: a thank offering was a particular sacrifice offered to God for what he had done. Unlike most sacrifices (where the animal was burnt or taken by the priests) the thank offering was given back to the individual. They would then have a banquet and invite all their friends to feast and celebrate with them!

What hints are there in these v17-19 that the psalmist is “going public” with his answer to prayer?