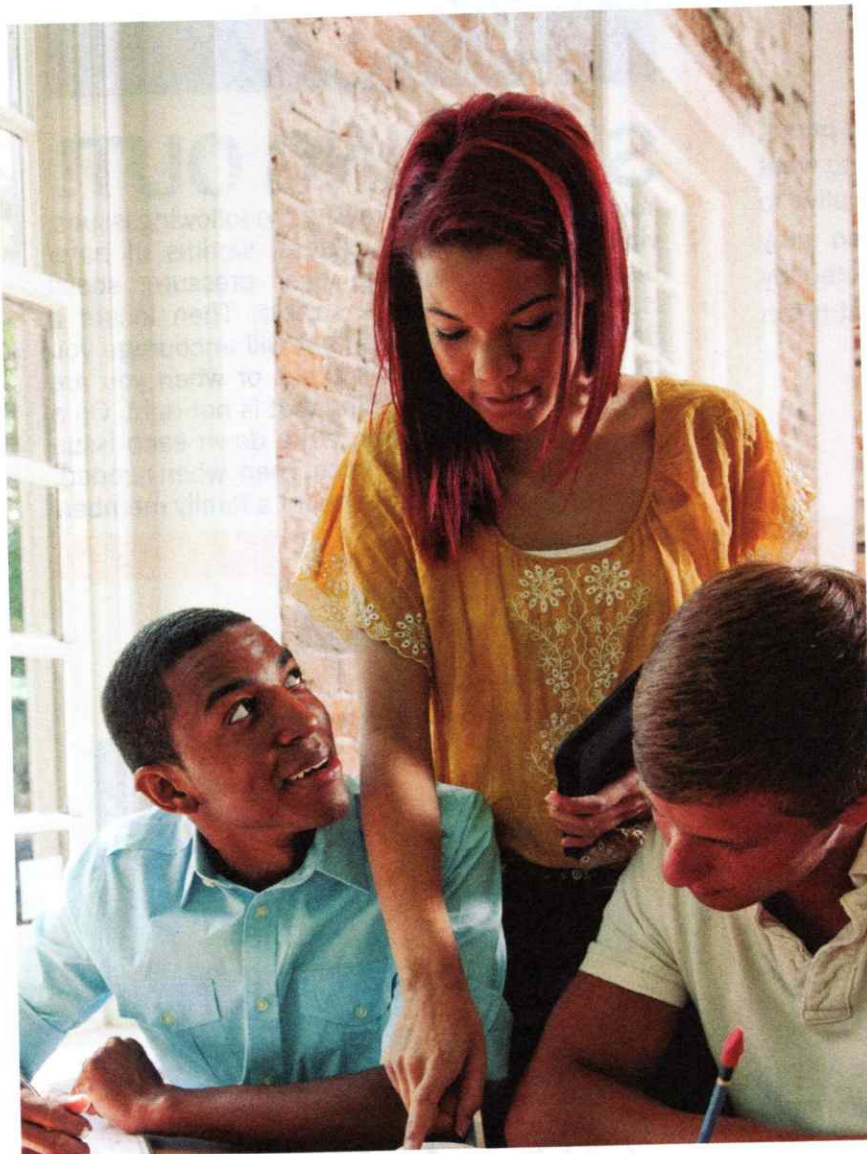


Background Scripture: Psalm 107

Print Passage: Psalm 107:1-9, 39-43

L7 Freed from Fear



REFLECT



Tony has had an issue with stuttering since he began talking. He knows what he wants to say, but sometimes it is difficult for him to get it out. When he is nervous, anxious, or afraid, it is especially difficult. Tony remembers getting teased and mocked by some of the kids in grade school. Since then, Tony has been working with a speech therapist who has been a blessing from God. Tony's speech therapist suggested that Tony join the forensics team (similar to debate) to boost his confidence. Tony joined the team. Tony's team practices by competing against each other before actual competitions. Before the first competition with several area schools, Tony began experiencing fear. Tony read Psalm 107 in several translations and learned that God is with us and remains steadfast, committed, and dedicated to us when we are afraid. In other words, God's love, commitment, and dedication have no limits. Tony was encouraged by Psalm 107. Since our praise belongs to God, God expects us to praise Him with all our hearts. Tony began praising God and praying. God stopped the enemy of fear in its tracks. When Tony's name was called, without fear, he gave a flawless speech. After the competition, Tony's teammates

congratulated him—but in his heart, Tony was praising and thanking God because he knew it was nobody but Him!

Briefly share a time when God was steadfast in a situation you faced.



They cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. (Psalm 107:6)

INTERSECT

THIS WEEK, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO PSALM 107, WHICH IS A PSALM OF PRAISE.

The psalmist declares that the people of God are to give thanks to the Lord God because the

love of God lasts forever. The love of God lasts beyond this life and extends to life in eternity. God's people can always expect God to love. Love is part of the nature and character of God. The redeemed of the Lord are those who have been saved by the grace of God. In writing this psalm, the psalmist had in mind the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. The people were encouraged to share their story. In the wilderness, the Israelites wandered in the desert—hungry and thirsty. When the people of God cried out to the Lord, God heard their cries and delivered them from their troubles. God led the Israelites to the Promised Land. Therefore, the psalmist said the people should give thanks to God for His consistent and abiding love that never, ever fails or lets us down. God not only satisfies our hungry, thirsty, physical bodies, but He also provides! God fills us with good things when we are without or in need. God also satisfies and provides for His people today. The psalmist testified as to the wonderful and miraculous acts of God. Today, when we think about the mighty acts of God, may we also joyfully testify to God's amazing and mighty works to others!

Inside Out



Refer to the printed Scripture and respond to the following questions or statements: (1) In your own words, describe a story when God displayed His awesome power for you and your family. (2) When you think about God's past acts in your life, what words of praise immediately come to mind? (3) Since everyone who has been redeemed has a story, summarize your story of deliverance. (4) Looking at the Bible passage, summarize the point the psalmist is making. How can you apply this to your life? (5) When you were in trouble, did you call out to God immediately for deliverance? If not, how will this lesson encourage you to make God your first choice for help in the future?



INSPECT

Psalm 107:1-9, 39-43

1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. **2** Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, **3** those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south. **4** Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. **5** They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. **6** Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. **7** He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. **8** Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, **9** for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

.....

39 Then their numbers decreased, and they were humbled by oppression, calamity and sorrow; **40** he who pours contempt on nobles made them wander in a trackless waste. **41** But he lifted the needy out of their affliction and increased their families like flocks. **42** The upright see and rejoice, but all the wicked shut their mouths. **43** Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the LORD.

