

biblical complaint bible study

Passage: Psalm 13

Identify the COMPLAINT:

1. What is the complaint? Lack of attention &/or action?
2. What is the cause of the complaint – what or who is the cause? (God, self, circumstances) Look for the conjunction “for” or “because.”
3. Can you relate to what the writer is feeling or thinking?

- vv. 1-2, 4 Spiritual anguish due to God’s inattentiveness and enemies
- “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?”
- “How long will you hide your face from me?”
- “How long must I ... have sorrow in my heart all the day?”
- “My enemy will say, ‘I have overcome him.’”

Identify the PETITION:

1. What does the writer want God to do? What does the writer ask God to do?
2. The concern is often, if not always, God’s lack of attention and action. Look for phrases appealing to God to listen or do something specific.

- vv. 1-4
- “Consider and answer me”
- Be attentive and act

Identify the CONFIDENCE:

1. What confidence in God does the writer have? What character qualities of God give the writer confidence? What actions of God give the writer confidence?
2. What does the writer identify as the solution to his problem?
3. What does the lament teach about God and our relationship with him? This is often taught through imagery (i.e. warrior, king, rock, etc.) The meaning behind the image teaches more about the nature of God.
4. What gives the writer comfort?

- vv. 5-6
- The solution is to trust in the Lord’s unfailing love that has manifested itself in bountiful dealings (loving and active providence).
- “My heart shall rejoice”

Identify the PRAISE:

1. For what does the writer praise God?
2. Does the writer make a vow to praise God? In private? In public? To fellow believers? To outsiders?
3. Be aware of poetic devices like imagery and parallelism (saying the same thing differently).

- v. 6
- "I will sing to the Lord."

Praying Psalm 13

- Lord, how long must I suffer with this pain/disease? (vv. 1-2)
- How long before my prayer is answered? (v. 1)
- Father, give me relief. (v. 3)
- Help me remain steadfast in faith. (v. 4)
- O God, thank You for my salvation! (v. 5)
- Let me sing of Your mercies. (vv. 5-6)

Applying Psalm 13

- We might feel forgotten and abandoned, but God has not forgotten us.
- Songs of praise help to remind us that God does not abandon His people.