

St. Luke's Church School
Grades 7 and 8
April 20, 2008

Psalm 121: A Song of Ascents: Walking, Trusting, Praising

Opening Devotion: The Collect for the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Goal for Today: To gain insight from scripture into decision making

Activity 1: Read Psalm 121 (first in silence, then aloud)

Psalm 121

- 1
I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2
My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3
He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5
The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7
The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8
The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Activity 2: Discuss the following (in small groups or large depending on turnout):

How would you paraphrase verse 1 for our culture today? What are today's *mountain gods*? Where do our contemporaries look for security and peace?

Notice the change of voice from verse 2 to verse 3 (first person to second person). Who is speaking in verses 1 and 2? Who is speaking in verses 3 through 8? What hint does that give you about how the psalm was used?

This Psalm was sung by pilgrims walking to the temple in Jerusalem for a religious festival. Think of a journey or pilgrimage you might be on today where this psalm would be a fitting prayer or song. What are some pitfalls to avoid on your journey? What are some threats you need to be protected from? How would you pray this psalm for yourself?

Activity 3: Select and draw an image from the psalm

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer