

When we are intimidated by the world

Psalm 49

Into the pit: a structure for Psalm 49

Understanding (v1–4)

Fear (v5–6)

(No) ransom (v7–9)

Death (v10–11)

Man in his pomp... (v12)

Understanding (v20)

(No) fear (v16–19)

Ransom (v15)

Death (v13–14)

Man in his pomp... (v20)

Introduction: why is it wrong to fear the rich?

Group discussion (8 minutes)

- In what ways are you tempted to fear the rich, famous or important people in (your) life? Try and identify what it is that intimidates you about them in particular and how this plays out for you. If you don't think you do fear the rich etc., why do you think that is the case?
- How have you tried to combat these fears in the past? What role (if any) has biblical truth played in helping you to stop fearing?

1. ...because no human wealth can ransom you from death (v5–12)

Fear (v5–6)

(No) ransom (v7–9)

Death (v10–12)

Group discussion (8 minutes)

- How do v5–12 help us meditate on the truth that money cannot ransom anyone from death?
- How do v5–12 help us, therefore, understand that we do not need to fear the rich? If possible, try and come up with some concrete examples of where these truths might help dispel our fears.

2. ...because only God can ransom you from death (v13–20)

Death (v13–14)

Ransom (v15)

(No) fear (v16–20)

Group discussion (12 minutes)

- Do you have any questions or comments you'd like to discuss?
- Now that we've looked at Psalm 49, go back to some of the fears you discussed in the first discussion time. How could you use Psalm 49 to help you combat those fears this summer?
- What do you think the world would be like if it understood the message of Psalm 49? How does Psalm 49 strengthen us to meditate on the ransom of Jesus Christ and to proclaim it from the rooftops (cf Mark 8:31–38, 10:45; 1 Timothy 2:5–6; 1 Peter 1:18–19)?
- Try and learn Psalm 49:15 as a group!
- Pray in groups