



## STUDY SEVEN

PSALM 16 || YOU WON'T LET YOUR HOLY ONE SEE DECAY

Read through Psalm 16 together, and each share one word (or more!) that sums up the mood of the Psalm.

As a group, listen to the musical adaptation at [new.mpc.org.au/singwithjesus](http://new.mpc.org.au/singwithjesus). Does the vibe of the music match your group's verdict on mood of the psalm?

When we sing "God Save the Queen" (which isn't very often these days!) we sing the words "Long to Reign Over Us." But of course, many Australians don't want a member of British Royalty to reign over us at all! Usually, it seems we can't wait until election time so we can choose a fresh new leader. Has there ever been a ruler you wished could last forever?

**MAYBE YOU NOTICED...**

AS WE'VE WORKED THROUGH THESE STUDIES, you might have noticed that the idea of RESURRECTION has been the key to reading the Psalms in the light of Jesus. That's even clearer when we come to our final study on Psalm 16, and the way the apostles used it to explain the significance of the RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

**ISRAEL'S KING'S IDEAL**

1. From verses 1-2, who is the author of the psalm, and who is it about?
2. David has very different attitudes towards his different subjects in verses 3 and 4. What distinguishes the group of ideal Israelites from the rest? How does David feel about each group?
3. Verses 5-8 tell us what David has invested his life in and the things he relies on to guide him. What are they, and how does he feel about the return on his investment?
4. In verses 9-11, King David faces the future. How would you describe David's level of confidence in his destiny?
5. Why would the average Israelite be excited by their king having a long life? How do the promises in this psalm benefit them?

## DAVID'S FAILURE & JESUS' FULFILMENT

David is so positive about his future life with his God in this psalm that it makes you wonder if David thought he was going to live forever, and 'not see decay'! The problem is, he died. For years afterwards, it was difficult for anyone to make sense of the psalm. It seemed David's confidence was misplaced – or maybe, that he wasn't quite as "holy" as he thought!

After Jesus' death and resurrection, however, the Holy Spirit helps Peter to see Psalm 16 through new eyes. And even more importantly, helps him to see Jesus' death and resurrection through Psalm 16 eyes. Read an excerpt of what he says in his Pentecost speech in Acts 2.

### Read Acts 2:25b-32

6. Why does Peter say David falls short of being the ideal king of Psalm 16?
  
7. How did Psalm 16 help Peter understand who Jesus really is?

David said about [Jesus]:  
 "I saw the Lord always before me.  
 Because he is at my right hand,  
 I will not be shaken.  
 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
 my body also will rest in hope,  
 27 because **you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,**  
**you will not let your holy one see decay.**  
 28 You have made known to me the paths of life;  
 you will fill me with joy in your presence.'  
 29 "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch **David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.** 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the **resurrection of the Messiah,** that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 **God has raised this Jesus to life,** and we are all witnesses of it.

## SING WITH JESUS

Even though he wrote the psalm, David had no hope of it being true for him. Peter realised that Psalm 16 should have left Israel looking for a king whose body wasn't going to rot in the ground. The resurrection proves that Jesus is the ideal king of Israel that Psalm 16 is really all about. The resurrection in fact confirms his status as the ultimate "Holy One of God."

8. The fact that Jesus rose is important, but sometimes we don't appreciate how important it is that he is still alive! Why should the average Christian be excited about king Jesus living forever?
9. Do you feel confident that bowing the knee to God's king, Jesus, provides good return on investment? Share an area of your life where it's difficult to believe that living for Jesus will be a good thing for you.
10. What truths and promises in Psalm 16 or Acts 2 help us to have a better perspective on these difficulties and to actively trust Jesus in them?
11. Peter's speech in Acts 2 proved that Jesus is God's king. This makes the important thing not so much how good a person is, but where they stand with the king. Do you find your joy in the mercy and love of your king, or in other things such as not doing certain sins or in life achievements?
12. Read through Psalm 16 together again, remembering that Jesus is our ideal, faithful king who is alive now and forever. And be encouraged that if you take refuge in him that you will live forever in paradise with him.

So, as we reach the end of our series,  
how do you “sing with Jesus”?

Jesus’ followers sing Psalms about Jesus our king: celebrating the salvation he won for us in fulfilling them and praying with confidence because he reigns.

We pray that you’ll find reading the promises of the Psalms even more refreshing and strengthening knowing that they’re fulfilled by Jesus. We hope you’re encouraged that even though we personally can’t fulfil the incredible ideals the Psalms hope for, our great blessing is found by taking refuge in the king who has. And as you follow our ideal king, he’ll lead you closer towards those ideals yourself. That’s how we sing with Jesus.

Over the break, try revisiting the Psalms we’ve studied, and sing or pray them just like that: rejoicing that they’re true of Jesus, and so they’re true of you too, if you’re in him. As you sing and pray the Psalms with Jesus, may you find refreshment, encouragement and strength, precisely when you need it most.