

## Stepping Toward or Stepping Away, April 30-May 3, 2026

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger "iron sharpening iron" relationships

**Ephesians 4:12-16 (ESV)**

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➔ From Sermon: "Stepping Toward or Stepping Back" from fear -contrast of Saul and David

**1 Samuel 17:1-56** (page 239 in pew Bible/ Bible Recap page 712)

David stepped TOWARD fear because he was focused on God and living in power of God

Saul stepped AWAY from fear because he was focused on self and living in human ability

David's actions led to people seeing God as God; Saul faded into oblivion.

Timeline: **1 Chronicles**, 1010-970 B.C. **Psalms**, from Moses to Solomon, approx. 1400-970 B.C.

**Bible Recap Readings:** 1 Chronicles and Psalms

1 & 2 Chronicles was originally one, divided later due to scroll length. In the traditional Jewish order of the Bible, Chronicles is the very last book because it summarizes all the Jewish Scriptures. It begins with the first word Adam, the name of the first human character in the beginning of the Scriptures, and it goes all the way through to the last paragraph announcing the return of Israel from exile. It is a really unique and important book in the Old Testament with a very intentional design.

**The Big Idea:** The books of Chronicles end by pointing forward, encouraging God's people to look back and see their past as the source of hope for the future. Chronicles is the conclusion of the Hebrew Bible, highlighting the messianic promises yet to be fulfilled.

**The Bible Project 4-part series on Psalms, Rev. Tim Mackie**

THEME: Psalms show us how to communicate with God with our whole selves, especially our hearts

<https://bibleproject.com/podcasts/psalms-language-prayer-part-1-praying-through-our-fears/>

Introduction

Psalms teach the importance of emotions not denying or allowing them to drive life

A reflective, intentional processing before God, understanding the source of emotions, sorting through their cause and effect and doing it all with God. There is every kind of emotion in 150 Psalms

**Psalm 3 (ESV) - FEAR**, when David fled from his son, Absalom, 2 Sam 15-18

Fear is the primal human emotion

**David prays through his fear, modeling it for us...**

1. Identified the source of his fear, vs. 1-2

David's fear is 2 sided – clear physical threat and propaganda about David that threatens his IDENTITY

Rollo May – pioneered the research on anxiety

FEAR is an instinctive response to a clear and present danger – an identifiable source of threat that floods your body with adrenaline. It is a positive, constructive, temporary emotion with a flood of intensity and energy.

ANXIETY is very vague and diffused, a feeling of dread, weakness and fragility. It has no clear and identifiable source, just feeling of dread of death, which renders your existence meaningless. Anxiety is the wear and tear of 1,000 little deaths which we all die every year in disappointments, hardships and failures. At stake in anxiety is our identity, the very sense of who we are – that we and our lives have meaning.

2. Aligned his priorities, vs 3-4

Moves attention from circumstances to God and His character in laser like way

Speaks to God through images

† “Shield about me”

† “my glory”

† “the lifter of my head”

3. Looked to the substitute who has done what he couldn't do, v. 4

4. Rested in God's mercy, grace and justice, vs 5-6

5. Committed his enemies and future to God, vs 7-8

**What would it look like for you to take the same journey?**

**Daily Reading Chapters Discussion**

1 Chron 1 From Adam to Jacob

1 Chron 2 Genealogy of David

1 Chron 3 Descendants of David

1 Chron 4 Descendants of Judah and Simeon

1 Chron 5 Des Reuben, Gad, ½ Tribe of Manasseh

1 Chron 6 Descendants of Levi

1 Chron 7 Descendants of Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, & Asher

1 Chron 8 Genealogy of Saul

1 Chron 9 Genealogy of Returned Exiles, Saul's Genealogy Repeated

1 Chron 10 The Death of Saul and His Sons

**This week's Psalms**

Ps 43 Send Out Your Light and Your Truth

Ps 44 Come to Our Help

Ps 45 Your Throne, O God, is Forever

Ps 49 Why Should I fear in Times of Trouble?

Ps 84 My Soul Longs for the Courts of the Lord

Ps 85 Revive Us Again

Ps 87 Glorious Things of You are Spoken

Ps 73 God is My Strength and Portion Forever

Ps 77 In the Day of Trouble I Seek the Lord

Ps 78 Tell the Coming Generation

Ps 81 Oh, That My People Would Listen to Me

Ps 88 I Cry Out Day and Night Before You

Ps 92 How Great are Your Works

Ps 93 The Lord Reigns

**Chronological Guide: pages p. 52**

**Takeaways:**

