

## Heart to Heart with the Living God

### Psalm 106

*"Many times he delivered them, but they were bent on rebellion..."* Ps. 106:43a

#### Day 1: Read Psalm 106.

1. Why does the psalmist say the Lord is to be praised and thanked? (vv. 1-2)
2. What answer do you think the psalmist expects to his question in verse 2? Why?
3. Who does the Psalmist say is blessed in verse 3?
4. Reread verses 4 and 5.
  - a. What things does the psalmist ask of the Lord? (v. 4)
  - b. What benefits does he anticipate will happen as a result of God's intervention? (v. 5)

#### Days 2 and 3: Read Psalm 106.

5. This psalm gives a condensed history of the relationship between God and His people. On the copy of Psalm 106 highlight in one color all the ways God's people sinned against Him; then with another color highlight the ways in which God responded.
6. When we look at the Israelite's sins we tend to distance ourselves from them. Even though the Psalmist hasn't committed the same sins as his fathers, what does he recognize? (v. 6)
7. What pattern do you see in the Israelites?
8. God responds to the sin of His people in two very different ways:
  - a. What are the two responses?
  - b. What unchanging purpose lies behind God responses? (Hos. 5:15—6:2; Rom. 2:4)

**Day 4: Read Psalm 106.**

9. What purposes do you think the Psalmist has in confessing Israel's repeated rebellion and sin?
10. The Israelites committed some unbelievably shocking sins, such as sacrificing their children to idols. Look back at your highlighted version of the psalm and identify some of the "smaller" and seemingly insignificant sins that led up to such horrific acts.
11. Pray and ask God to reveal any sins you may have considered "small" and insignificant sins. Give glory to God by confessing these sins and asking for forgiveness.

**Day 5: Read Psalm 106.**

12. In the midst of Israel's history of sin and rebellion which two leaders "stood up and intervened" (v. 30) on behalf of the people? (vv. 23, 30)

What did each of these men do? (Ex. 32:7-14; Num. 25:1-13)

13. The intervention of Moses and Phinehas stayed God's hand temporarily, but what is the result of Jesus' intervention on our behalf? (Isa. 53:4-6; Heb. 9:27-28; 1 Pet. 2:24)
14. The last two verses of the psalm contain both prayer and praise.
  - a. What does the Psalmist petition the Lord for in verse 47?
  - b. Why does he want the Lord to grant his request?
15. What has the Lord taught you through the study of this psalm?

## Psalm 106 (New International Version)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.  
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.  
<sup>2</sup> Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD  
or fully declare his praise?  
<sup>3</sup> Blessed are they who maintain justice,  
who constantly do what is right.  
<sup>4</sup> Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to  
your people, come to my aid when you save  
them,  
<sup>5</sup> that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen  
ones, that I may share in the joy of your nation  
and join your inheritance in giving praise.  
<sup>6</sup> We have sinned, even as our fathers did;  
we have done wrong and acted wickedly.  
<sup>7</sup> When our fathers were in Egypt,  
they gave no thought to your miracles;  
they did not remember your many kindnesses,  
and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.  
<sup>8</sup> Yet he saved them for his name's sake,  
to make his mighty power known.  
<sup>9</sup> He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up;  
he led them through the depths as through a  
desert.  
<sup>10</sup> He saved them from the hand of the foe;  
from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.  
<sup>11</sup> The waters covered their adversaries;  
not one of them survived.  
<sup>12</sup> Then they believed his promises  
and sang his praise.  
<sup>13</sup> But they soon forgot what he had done  
and did not wait for his counsel.  
<sup>14</sup> In the desert they gave in to their craving;  
in the wasteland they put God to the test.  
<sup>15</sup> So he gave them what they asked for,  
but sent a wasting disease upon them.  
<sup>16</sup> In the camp they grew envious of Moses  
and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the LORD.  
<sup>17</sup> The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan;  
it buried the company of Abiram.  
<sup>18</sup> Fire blazed among their followers;  
a flame consumed the wicked.  
<sup>19</sup> At Horeb they made a calf  
and worshiped an idol cast from metal.  
<sup>20</sup> They exchanged their Glory  
for an image of a bull, which eats grass.  
<sup>21</sup> They forgot the God who saved them,  
who had done great things in Egypt,  
<sup>22</sup> miracles in the land of Ham  
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.  
<sup>23</sup> So he said he would destroy them—  
had not Moses, his chosen one,  
stood in the breach before him  
to keep his wrath from destroying them.  
<sup>24</sup> Then they despised the pleasant land;  
they did not believe his promise.

<sup>25</sup> They grumbled in their tents  
and did not obey the LORD.  
<sup>26</sup> So he swore to them with uplifted hand  
that he would make them fall in the desert,  
<sup>27</sup> make their descendants fall among the nations  
and scatter them throughout the lands.  
<sup>28</sup> They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor  
and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods;  
<sup>29</sup> they provoked the LORD to anger by their wicked  
deeds, and a plague broke out among them.  
<sup>30</sup> But Phinehas stood up and intervened,  
and the plague was checked.  
<sup>31</sup> This was credited to him as righteousness  
for endless generations to come.  
<sup>32</sup> By the waters of Meribah they angered the LORD,  
and trouble came to Moses because of them;  
<sup>33</sup> for they rebelled against the Spirit of God,  
and rash words came from Moses' lips.  
<sup>34</sup> They did not destroy the peoples  
as the LORD had commanded them,  
<sup>35</sup> but they mingled with the nations  
and adopted their customs.  
<sup>36</sup> They worshiped their idols,  
which became a snare to them.  
<sup>37</sup> They sacrificed their sons  
and their daughters to demons.  
<sup>38</sup> They shed innocent blood,  
the blood of their sons and daughters,  
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,  
and the land was desecrated by their blood.  
<sup>39</sup> They defiled themselves by what they did;  
by their deeds they prostituted themselves.  
<sup>40</sup> Therefore the LORD was angry with his people  
and abhorred his inheritance.  
<sup>41</sup> He handed them over to the nations,  
and their foes ruled over them.  
<sup>42</sup> Their enemies oppressed them  
and subjected them to their power.  
<sup>43</sup> Many times he delivered them,  
but they were bent on rebellion  
and they wasted away in their sin.  
<sup>44</sup> But he took note of their distress  
when he heard their cry;  
<sup>45</sup> for their sake he remembered his covenant  
and out of his great love he relented.  
<sup>46</sup> He caused them to be pitied  
by all who held them captive.  
<sup>47</sup> Save us, O LORD our God,  
and gather us from the nations,  
that we may give thanks to your holy name  
and glory in your praise.  
<sup>48</sup> Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Let all the people say, "Amen!"  
Praise the LORD.