

## 8. CHOOSE GOOD FRIENDS

Psalm 1

David wrote a Psalm about choosing good friends. In today's lesson we will be studying Psalm 1 and what it means to us.

David taught that we would be blessed, or happy, if we choose friends who love God. The ones who love God are called "godly." The ones who do not love God are called "ungodly." If we want to ask a friend what we should do, we should ask a person who is godly. David said a happy person won't seek the **counsel** (advice) of an ungodly person.



A person who is godly will **delight** in God's law. This person will love God's law and want to obey it. He is like a strong **tree** by rivers of water. His good fruit is the way he acts. His good fruit is also the way he teaches others about God.

David said the **ungodly** are like the **chaff**. **Chaff** is the part of the grain that isn't any good. When I was a young girl, my dad grew popcorn. We had a machine that would make the kernels of corn come off of the cob. You put the cob in at the top and turned the handle. The kernels would come out one place and the cob would come out another place. When it was windy, you could see tiny pieces of the cob flying in the wind. We would pour the corn from one big pan into another so the chaff would blow away and we would have only the good popcorn left.

The **ungodly** won't stand at the **judgment**. At the end of the world, Jesus will judge all the people who ever lived. The **righteous** will go to heaven to live forever with God. The **unrighteous** will go to hell. It is important that we choose good friends who will help us want to do what is right. We need to be the kind of friend who will help others go to heaven, too.



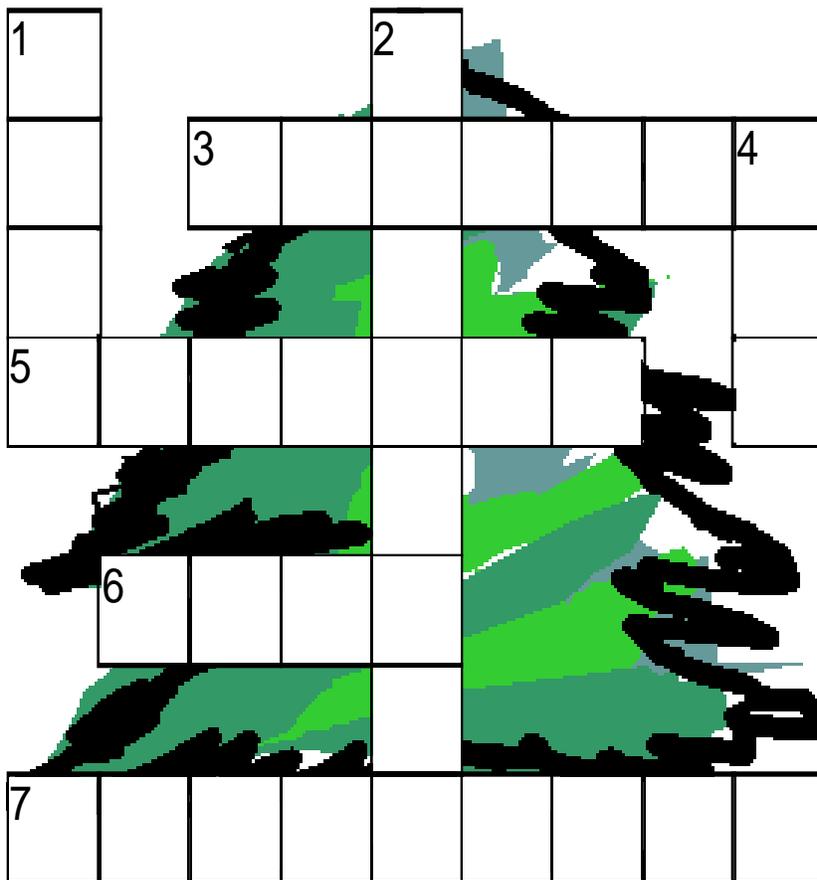
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Fill in the missing words from **Psalm 1**. Write them in the crossword puzzle. After each missing word you are told where to put the word in the puzzle. For example, "1D" means 1 down.

### Psalm 1:

1. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the \_\_\_\_\_ (3A) of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."
2. "But his \_\_\_\_\_ (5A) is in the \_\_\_\_\_ (4D) of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."
3. "And he shall be like a \_\_\_\_\_ (6A) planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
4. "The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the \_\_\_\_\_ (1D) driveth away."

- 5. "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the \_\_\_\_\_ (2D), nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous."
- 6. "For the Lord knoweth the way of the \_\_\_\_\_ (7A): but the way of the ungodly shall perish."





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Psalm 1

David wrote a Psalm about choosing good friends. In today's lesson we will be studying Psalm 1 and what it means to us.

**Verse 1:** "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." We are **blessed**, or happy, if we do not choose friends who try to get us to do bad things. When we ask someone what we should do about a problem we are asking for their **counsel**. We should ask for advice from people who love God, not those who are known for bad behavior.



**Verse 2:** "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." A person who **delights** in God's **law** is one who loves it very much and wants to obey it. To **meditate** means to think about God's law and how we can do what God wants us to do. This verse does not mean we must read the Bible all day and all night. It means that we should always be thinking about living the way God wants us to live.

**Verse 3:** "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." The person who obeys God is like a strong **tree** that gets plenty of **water**. A Christian gets water by studying and obeying the Bible. The good **fruit** in a Christian's life is the way he lives to please God. He also brings forth **fruit** by teaching others about God. He won't wither up like a dead leaf, because he is always close to the good **water** he gets when he studies the Bible and goes to worship services.

**Verse 4:** "The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away." **Chaff** is the part of the grain that isn't any good. When I was a young girl, my dad grew popcorn. We had a machine that would make the kernels of corn come off of the cob. You put the cob in at the top and turned the handle. The kernels would come out one place and the cob would come out another place. When it was windy, you could see tiny pieces of the cob flying in the wind. We would pour the corn from one big pan into another so the chaff would blow away and we would have only the good popcorn left. People who are **ungodly** are not like the strong tree planted by the river. They do not love God. They are like the bad chaff that blows in the wind.

**Verse 5:** "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous." Have you ever seen a child who was caught doing something very bad, and they are hanging their head because they are ashamed? Of course, there are some children who just don't care. But on the **judgment** day, when we stand before Jesus and He will tell us whether we will be going to heaven or hell, there will be many who won't be able to stand proud. They will be like a child hanging his head. But then it will be too late to make any changes. These **sinners** who did not repent and obey God won't be able to go to heaven with the **righteous** ones.

**Verse 6:** "For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish." God knows what is in our hearts. Those who are **righteous** are the ones who try to obey God. The **ungodly** may not care right now, but they will care when they **perish**, because then they will spend an eternity in hell. We want to be **righteous** and live in heaven forever with God and Jesus. We need to choose friends who love God and who will help us live **righteous** lives.



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Fill in the missing words from the verses you just read. Write them in the crossword puzzle on the next page.

**Psalm 1:**

1. " \_\_\_\_\_ (8A) is the man that walketh not in the \_\_\_\_\_ (1D) of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of \_\_\_\_\_ (2D) nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."
2. "But his \_\_\_\_\_ (5D) is in the \_\_\_\_\_ (11D) of the Lord; and in his law doth he \_\_\_\_\_ (12A) day and night."
3. "And he shall be like a \_\_\_\_\_ (7D) planted by the rivers of \_\_\_\_\_ (6A), that bringeth forth his \_\_\_\_\_ (4D) in his season; his \_\_\_\_\_ (10D) shall not \_\_\_\_\_ (14A); and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
4. "The \_\_\_\_\_ (9A) are not so: but are like the \_\_\_\_\_ (13A) which the wind driveth away."

5. "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the \_\_\_\_\_ (17A), nor sinners in the congregation of the \_\_\_\_\_ (15D)."
6. "For the \_\_\_\_\_ (3D) knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall \_\_\_\_\_ (16D).

