

Kneeling with Giants:
Learning to Pray with History's Best Teachers
By Gary Hansen
Material for Chapter 4 (John Calvin)
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In this chapter, Dr. Hansen provides 3 different ways of praying with the Psalms.

1. Hearing the text: Learning to study
2. Speaking the text: Listening with your life
3. Singing the text: Translating Psalms into poetry and song

You are welcome to focus on one of these methods this week or to try all three through your seven daily exercises. This week, you will likely need to focus more time on the practice; you may want to plan 20 minutes each day (or much more if you have it). To aid your efforts, I'm including some material that might help.

For the first approach in particular, many may not have a concordance or a way to cross-reference among scripture passages. If you have a Study Bible, you may have a concordance (maybe with dictionary) in the back. Cross-references may appear near the regular text in the margins, the gutter between columns, as footnotes, or in the study notes at the bottom. Some regular Bibles will, also, have some of these items.

If you do not have a Study Bible and would consider purchasing one, I recommend one of the following:

Barker, Kenneth L. *NIV Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 2011.

Bible Speaks Today: NIV Study Bible. 2020.

Coogan, Michael David, Marc Zvi Brettler, Carol A. Newsom, and PHEME PERKINS. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*. 2010. {Note this is more academic in nature but uses the NRSV text we usually use in worship. It is published by Oxford University Press.}

ESV Study Bible. 2011.

Life Application Study Bible: NIV. 2019. {The *Life Application Study Bible* can be found using a few different translations. I would recommend the *NIV*, but you could, also, choose from the *NLT* (more figurative) or *NASB* (more literal). I would not generally recommend the *KJV* due to the archaic language and for other reasons.}

There are several other good options as well. If you have questions on these various Study Bibles, certainly let me know.

If you don't have access to a concordance, you can use <https://www.biblestudytools.com/concordances/>. Some Bible dictionaries are available at <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/>. If you're looking to purchase one, talk to me. There are more recent Bible dictionaries that I would recommend in physical book form or through Bible Study Software such as Logos Bible Software.



Wading through the 150 Psalms might be difficult, so I'll include here seven Psalms you can use throughout the week, which will give you some variation of style and type. The last one we'll use on Wednesday as we gather, so bring that one with you (or the entire packet). There's no need to work with the last one in advance of our meeting.

If you venture into other Psalms, you may find that more literal translations work better. The *NIV*, *NRSV*, and *NASB* might be better options. You could, also, explore the *NKJV*. Translations or paraphrases such as the *NLT* or *The Message* may not work as well.

Included Psalms below:

- [Psalm 92](#) (Day 1, Psalm of Praise)
- [Psalm 32](#) (Day 2, Psalm of Thanksgiving)
- [Psalm 112](#) (Day 3, Psalm of Wisdom)
- [Psalm 3](#) (Day 4, Psalm of Lament)
- [Psalm 124](#) (Day 5, Hymn)
- [Psalm 51](#) (Day 6, Psalm of Lament)
- [Psalm 27](#) (Day 7, Psalm of Lament and the Psalm for that day from the [PC\(USA\) Daily Lectionary](#))
- [Psalm 51](#) (the Wednesday we gathered in-person and during the Season of Lent)



This study aid is written to guide study and discussions of *Kneeling with Giants: Learning to Pray with History's Best Teachers* by Gary Neal Hansen. The full set of study guides is available at <https://livingintograce.com/study-group-aids-for-kneeling-with-giants-learning-to-pray-with-historys-best-teachers-by-gary-neal-hansen>. While based on the book, this guide was not prepared in cooperation with the author, Gary Neal Hansen, nor the publishers (InterVarsity Press).



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