**Psalm 5**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-13975a)]

**For the director of music. For pipes. A psalm of David.**

**1**Listen to my words, Lord,
    consider my lament.
**2**Hear my cry for help,
    my King and my God,
    for to you I pray.

**3**In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
    in the morning I lay my requests before you
    and wait expectantly.
**4**For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
    with you, evil people are not welcome.
**5**The arrogant cannot stand
    in your presence.
You hate all who do wrong;
**6**    you destroy those who tell lies.
The bloodthirsty and deceitful
    you, Lord, detest.
**7**But I, by your great love,
    can come into your house;
in reverence I bow down
    toward your holy temple.

**8**Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness
    because of my enemies—
    make your way straight before me.
**9**Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;
    their heart is filled with malice.
Their throat is an open grave;
    with their tongues they tell lies.

**10**Declare them guilty, O God!
    Let their intrigues be their downfall.
Banish them for their many sins,
    for they have rebelled against you.
**11**But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
    let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
    that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

**12**Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous;
    you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

**Old Testament Reading - Genesis 4:1-15**

**Cain and Abel**

**4**Adam[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-81a)] made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-81b)] She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-81c)] a man.” **2**Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. **3**In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. **4**And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, **5**but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

**6**Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? **7**If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

**8**Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.”[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-88d)] While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

**9**Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

**10**The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. **11**Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. **12**When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

**13**Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. **14**Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

**15**But the Lord said to him, “Not so[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=genesis+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-95e)]; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

**Epistle Reading - 2 Timothy 4:6-8 & 16-18**

**6**For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. **7**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8**Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**16**At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. **17**But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth. **18**The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Reading – Luke 18:9-17**

**9**To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: **10**“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11**The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. **12**I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

**13**“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

**14**“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**The Little Children and Jesus**

**15**People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. **16**But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. **17**Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”