



# SERMON GUIDE

FOR JUNE 19, 2022

## RESPOND-3



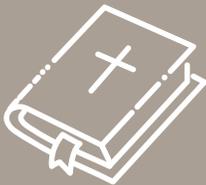
PSALM 127-128

**RICK GROVER, LEAD PASTOR**

Today we're in week three of our series called, Respond, where we're taking a look at the old hymn book of the Jewish faith called the Psalms where worship is about how we RESPOND to God. Sometimes we're just trying to make it through the week and deal with all the issues and challenges and work and kids and marriage or dating, and it can, at times, be just a bit much! But here's my conviction: If we don't understand worship, everything else in life will be off kilter. Worship is to life what a wheel alignment is to a car.

**1**

**Describe the last time your life felt out of balance.  
Try to think about the condition of your spiritual life in that time.**



Read Psalm 128 and 129. Do your Bibles have a heading that reads, "A Song of Ascent"? Josh mentioned this two weeks ago, that several the Psalms we're looking at in this series come from the songs of ascent. These were actual songs of worship the Jews would sing as they were on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. They would sing them to their children as they would ascend to Jerusalem. Imagine this: You are riding into Jerusalem and all of the sudden, you see the great temple on a hill, the place where God dwells. Wouldn't you write something similar to, "To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!" (Psalm 123:1). What a great reminder that when we look at what "we" accomplish (like the building of the Temple in Jerusalem), we labor in vain unless the Lord is truly the One who builds it.





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## 2 What has the Lord built in your life that is worthy of this kind of worship?

These Songs of Ascent don't just point our focus vertically, but horizontally as well. What does this mean? Well every worshipful moment informs how we treat the people that surround us. For example, Psalm 127 tells us that children are a "heritage from the Lord". A worshipful attitude leads to godly relationships with your children. Psalm 128 describes how worship will strengthen marriages as well through the fear of the Lord. Right worship produces fruit.

## 3 How has the Lord honored your worship horizontally?

One critical thing to understand is that our view of the way God blesses (or should bless) worship is different from the way he actually does. God doesn't always operate His blessings according to our timetable. But the blessings are still beyond measure:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh" (Luke 6:20-21, ESV).

So, what are we to do with this "practical theology of worship"? We worship out of suffering. We worship out of joy. Our worship acknowledges that our blessings flow from God.

## 4 How does right worship require patience? How have previous blessings been different from your expectations?

