# PSALM 115 STUDY **FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDY**

**Read the whole psalm aloud, then observe one minute of silent reflection.**

1. What is this psalm telling its hearers to do? Which verses have the main exhortation?

*There is a rough concetric structure to this psalm:*

*Glory to the Lord (v1)*

*The Lord reigns in heaven (vv2-3)*

*The idols of the nations are useless (vv4-8)*

*Trust in the Lord! (vv9-11)*

*The Lord is powerful to bless (vv12-15)*

*The Lord reigns in heaven and made the earth (v16)*

*Praise to the Lord (vv17-18)*

*Because of this structure, this study is going to jump around a bit rather than stepping through the text from beginning to end.*

**Look at verse 2.**

1. Why would the nations be saying “where is their God” (v2)? Think about the history of Israel, and the worship practices of Israel and the surrounding nations.

1. What examples of similar mocking of God’s people can you think of today?

**Look at verses 4-8**

1. According to the psalm, what are the downsides of being an idol?
2. What’s the downside of making and trusting idols?
3. An idol is “a good thing that gets turned into a god thing” - a created thing we look to for security and significance instead of the creator God. These days in the West we don’t tend to have little statues, but nevertheless many things function as idols. What idols are common today? Which ones do you find yourself trusting in?

**Look at the whole psalm.**

1. How is the LORD different to idols? List the things that contrast with verses 4-8

1. In light of the New Testament, how has the Lord ultimately remembered and blessed his people? How do verses 17-18 shine more brightly now that Jesus is risen?

1. In our context, as we wait for God’s kingdom to come, what will it look like for us to trust in the LORD instead of idols?

**Finish by praising God for the things revealed about him in this psalm, and close by praying verse 1 out loud.**