

A Culture of Safety Begins with You 2016 National Nurses Week Bible Discussion



As nurses, we recognize that creating a safe environment is important for our patients, for our coworkers, and for ourselves. What are the characteristics of a “culture of safety” in your nursing practice? How would you describe it? What part do you play?

As Christians, we recognize that a “culture of safety” begins with God. He alone is our eternal, safe refuge. Gather together with other nurses and explore what one Hebrew writer described as a “culture of safety” in the Bible.

Read Psalm 91 aloud and discuss the questions that follow.

Psalm 91 (NIV):

- ¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- ² I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”
- ³ Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.
- ⁴ He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- ⁵ You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
- ⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
- ⁸ You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

- ⁹ If you say, “The LORD is my refuge,” and you make the Most High your dwelling,
- ¹⁰ no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.
- ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;
- ¹² they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
- ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ “Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him;

I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Discussion Questions:

- What dangers or threats to safety are mentioned by the writer of this psalm?
- What images or word pictures are used to describe God as a protector?
- How does God meet the needs and fears expressed in these verses? Why does God act to protect people?
- Where do you need God’s protection and help? How can you make the Lord your refuge?
- Think about the “culture of safety” in your nursing environment. What threatens the safety of your nursing practice? How do these verses encourage you to be part of the solution to safety issues?
- From this Psalm, what personal applications can you make for your life or nursing practice?

Pray Together

Praise God for his sovereign protection! Ask God for . . .

. . . wisdom and strength to promote a culture of safety in your workplace.

. . . a calm and loving spirit to encourage your coworkers.

. . . a spirit of cooperation and God’s protection in your work environment

. . . a sense of peace and freedom from fear for your patients and their families.

. . . a faithful witness to Christ and the hope he provides.

Take this verse with you today as a reminder to find rest in God:

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”

(Ps. 91:1)