

Name

Date

Handout 2-A

Psalm 119:1-8

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm in the Bible and focuses on the goodness of God's law. After reading all three translations out loud in class, use a pen or pencil to underline sections that are identical or almost identical between the translations. Use a highlighter to note sections that are very different between the translations. When you are finished, take time to think about the reflection questions at the bottom of the sheet, and be prepared to share your answers with the class.

| Verse | <i>New Jerusalem Bible</i> | <i>New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition</i> | <i>New American Bible Revised Edition</i> |
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| 1 | How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the Law of Yahweh! | Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. | Blessed those whose way is blameless, who walk by the law of the Lord. |
| 2 | Blessed are those who observe his instructions, who seek him with all their hearts, | Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart, | Blessed those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with all their heart. |
| 3 | and, doing no evil, who walk in his ways. | who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways. | They do no wrong; they walk in his ways. |
| 4 | You lay down your precepts to be carefully kept. | You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. | You have given them the command to observe your precepts with care. |
| 5 | May my ways be steady in doing your will. | O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! | May my ways be firm in the observance of your statutes! |
| 6 | Then I shall not be shamed, if my gaze is fixed on your commandments. | Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. | Then I will not be ashamed to ponder all your commandments. |
| 7 | I thank you with a sincere heart for teaching me your upright judgements. | I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances. | I will praise you with sincere heart as I study your righteous judgments. |
| 8 | I shall do your will; do not ever abandon me wholly. | I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. | I will observe your statutes; do not leave me all alone. |

Reflection Questions

1. What are some of the major similarities and differences you noticed between these three translations?
2. What patterns do you notice between these three translations?
3. What words would you use to describe each translation individually? How would you describe the similarities and differences between the translations?
4. How does each translation make you feel? Are there any words in one translation that resonate with you in a positive or negative way?
5. Which translation of this psalm do you prefer? Why?