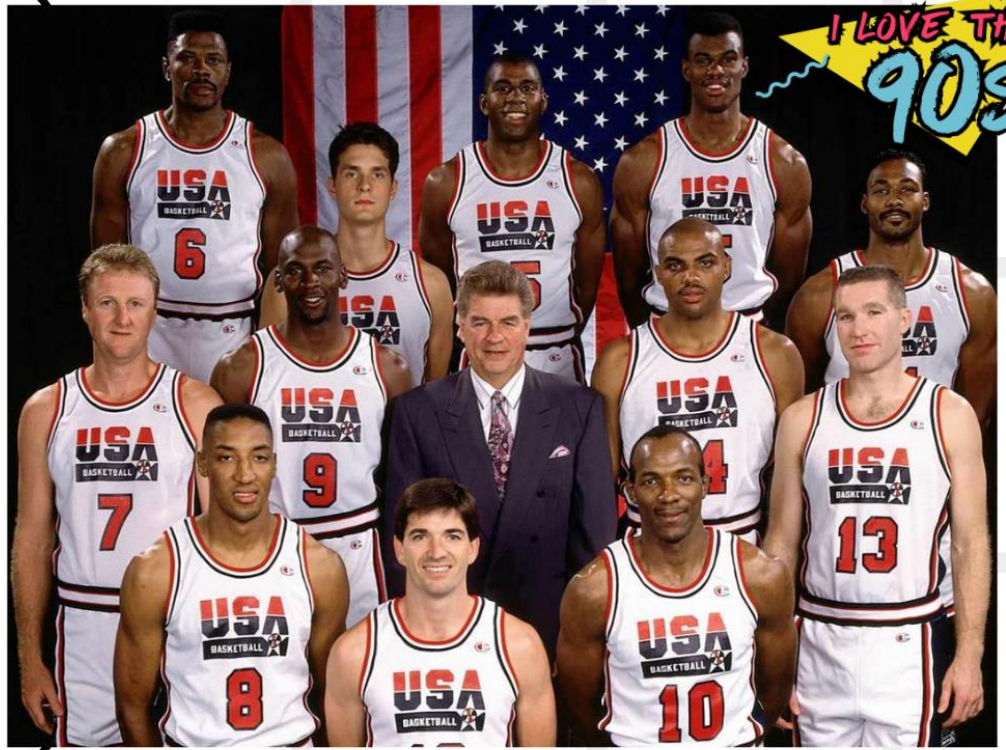


How many members of the 1992 Olympic Dream Team can you name?



The Dream Team changed basketball forever. In their wildly successful 1992 Olympic campaign, the team went 8-0, and walked away with the gold medal. Many believe the Dream Team is the greatest collection of basketball talent ever assembled, representing confidence, excellence, and dominance.

But Olympic gold doesn't guarantee flourishing. Some players experienced broken relationships, financial struggles, health issues, public failures, and deep personal hardships. A human life cannot be sustained by success alone.

Psalm 92 asks what kind of life flourishes?

DISCUSS

- WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD SUCCESSFUL, WHO COMES TO MIND?
- WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD FLOURISHING, DO DIFFERENT NAMES COME TO MIND?



THE [RIGHTEOUS] ARE PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD;
THEY FLOURISH IN THE COURTS OF OUR GOD.
- PSALM 92:13

● **AS YOU HEAR THE PSALM,
CONSIDER ITS TONE.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

How great are Your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep! The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this: that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever; but You, O Lord, are on high forever. For behold, Your enemies, O Lord, for behold, Your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.

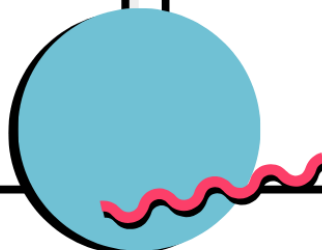
● **WHICH IMAGE STANDS
OUT TO YOU MOST?**

But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; You have poured over me fresh oil. My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. - Psalm 92 (ESV)

Why do you think the psalm begins with gratitude instead of requests?

Have you had a day that improved simply because you stopped and thanked God?



1992

Psalm 92 doesn't reveal its author, but it does tell us when it was meant to be sung. The psalmist labels it "a psalm for the Sabbath." We often think worship - our regular attendance, our commitment to prayer - changes God's attitude toward us. Psalm 92 suggests worship is not an instrument we wield, but a tool the Lord uses to change us.



Note how quickly the psalm pivots from worship to evil. Even people who love the Lord still look around and wonder: "Why do bad people seem to win?"

Disney's 1992 hit, Aladdin, presents a world of dazzling possibilities: three wishes, instant wealth, magical transformations. From street rat to bachelor prince overnight! It's a story built on the fantasy that one extraordinary event can instantly change a person's life.

If Aladdin is meant to be considered the hero of the story, then his journey proves instant success is not the same as flourishing.

Can you think of an example where success, immediate or otherwise, did not result in the life someone wanted?



Picture both a dandelion and an oak tree.
Which grows faster?
Which lasts longer?
Wickedness sprouts quickly;
righteousness is cultivated over time.
The Lord values deep roots over quick results.



If Psalm 92 is a Sabbath psalm, then it should clearly connect to Jesus who is Lord of the Sabbath. Jesus reorients us to the good life, giving us a picture of what true flourishing looks like.

[JESUS SAYS,] "ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU. AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF, UNLESS IT ABIDES IN THE VINE, NEITHER CAN YOU, UNLESS YOU ABIDE IN ME. I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. WHOEVER ABIDES IN ME AND I IN HIM, HE IT IS THAT BEARS MUCH FRUIT, FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING." - JOHN 15:4-5



The world chases:

- SUCCESS
- PERFORMANCE
- POPULARITY
- RECOGNITION
- SPEED

In Christ, Psalm 92 promises...

- FLOURISHING
- FRUITFULNESS
- PERSEVERANCE
- ROOTEDNESS
- ENDURANCE

Who is the most spiritually fruitful older Christian you've ever known?
What qualities did they seem to have?

God is not primarily looking for spectacular Christians. He delights in faithful Christians. If your obituary contained only one sentence, which would you rather have? "He was remarkably successful." or "She faithfully walked with God." Why?



- Read Psalm 92 daily
- Write down one reason to praise God
- Reflect: "Did gratitude change how I viewed my week?"
- Try writing your obituary as a record of God's grace