

Psalms: David's greatest hits!

Family readings

A psalm is a poem or song. And there is a whole book of them in the Bible! They are full of emotions, pictures, images and words. They talk about people living everyday life as God's people!

David wrote so many of the psalms (and many more seem to have been attributed to him). The greatest king of God's people, a man of many emotions and much sin and godliness, David received a promise from God that through his family, God's king would again rule the world.

The psalms that David wrote captured not only his raw emotion in life, as he lived for God and battled sin—they also capture his longing for God's promise to come true!

The psalms that we are looking at in this series are some of his most well-known.

These shorts devotions will help you sit with your family each day (well, five days in the week!), and prepare your hearts and minds by looking at the passages we will be thinking through each Sunday. They should take about 10 minutes together:

- Begin each time with a short prayer, asking God to help you understand the Bible.
- Do the 'tasks/questions'.
- Finish by praying a short 'thank-you' prayer to God.

Try to set aside the same time each day to spend this time together, making this a family habit!

It won't be easy but it will be greatly rewarding!

Week 1 (starting 30 August) Psalm 3

Day 1

- Read Psalm 3.
- Who wrote it? Why did he write it? (look at 2 Samuel 15:13-17 to see the events around this psalm)

Day 2

- Read Psalm 3:1-4.
- What is David facing in life?
- Who is David's one hope? What pictures does David use to describe this hope? Can you draw them?

Day 3

- Read Psalm 3:5-6.
- Because David knows that God is protecting him, what can he do each night and each morning?
- Are there things that stop you sleeping well at night? Why don't you pray about them, and ask God to be your shield?

Day 4

- Read Psalm 3:7-8.
- What does David ask God to do?
- What can only God give?

Day 5

- Spend some time thinking about Jesus... did he have enemies? Who did he trust when he was surrounded by enemies? (think about Jesus in the Garden of Gethseman (Matt.26:36-43) and Jesus on the cross (Luke 23:44-46)).
- As someone who trusts in Jesus, do you think that you too can trust God to protect you? Why/why not?

Week 2 (starting 6 September) Psalm 8

Day 1

- Read Psalm 8.
- How does it start and end?
- Grab a dictionary and look up the word 'magnificent', and talk about why God's name is this!

Day 2

- Read Psalm 8:1-2.
- How has God shown how 'magnificent' he is?
- Who speaks about God's 'bigness' in the world?
- Can you draw a picture of one of these two pictures?

Day 3

- Read Psalm 8:3-8.
- What does David look at?
- When he looks at all of this, what does he think about human beings? Why?

Day 4

- Read Genesis 1:26-2:3.
- What days are these in creation?
- What do we learn about humans here?
- What does this tell you about God?

Day 5

- Read Colossians 1:15-20.
- Who is this talking about?
- What do we learn about Jesus here (as a human being)?

Week 3 (starting 13 September) Psalm 18

Day 1

- Read Psalm 18:1-6.
- When did David write this psalm?
- How does David describe God?
- What did God do for David?
- What pictures does David use here to describe God?

Day 2

- Read Psalm 18:7-15.
- What does God do, and why? (look back at verse 6!)
- What picture images does the psalmist use to describe God coming?
- How does that make you feel?

Day 3

- Read Psalm 18:16-24.
- When God comes, what does he do?
- What does this prove about God?

Day 4

- Read Psalm 18:25-36.
- What did the psalmist learn about God, as God rescued him?
- Write down all the good things used to describe God...

Day 5

- Read Psalm 18:37-50.
- Does God's faithfulness change the psalmist's life?
- How does God's faithfulness change his life?

Week 4 (starting 20 September) Psalm 19

Day 1

- Read Psalm 19:1-6.
- What does creation do?
- What words does creation use?
- Draw a picture that uses these images...

Day 2

- Read Psalm 19:7-11.
- In these 5 verses, what does the psalmist talk about?
- What is different from the first six verses?
- What does God's word bring?
- Draw

Day 3

- Read Psalm 19:12-13.
- What does the psalmist ask God to do?
- Why do you think this happens?

Day 4

- Read Psalm 19:14.
- What change does the psalmist ask for?
- Why does he ask for this?

Day 5

- Think back over the things you have learned this week...
- What will creation tell you about God? (see also Romans 1:18ff)
- But where do we need to go to know God, and what we are like?

Week 5 (starting 27 September) Psalm 23

Day 1

- Read Psalm 23:1-4.
- What picture does the psalmist use for God?
- What does God do?
- Draw a picture of this...

Day 2

- Read Psalm 23:1-4.
- Where does God lead David?
- Is there anything that God as shepherd cannot deal with?

Day 3

- Read Psalm 23:5-6.
- How does David describe God's goodness—what picture images does David use?
- Draw a picture of this...

Day 4

- Read Psalm 23.
- Is God the shepherd in life and death?
- What do you think about this?

Day 5

- Read Psalm 23.

