### New International Reader's Version – Parent Packet

This month we are focusing on the Psalms. This book includes many poems and songs that help us understand more about who God is and how he works in our lives. It also teaches us that it is important to have a relationship with God, who has created the world and everything in it.

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Read Psalm 23 to learn about how Jesus is our shepherd. Try to memorize the verse highlighted in the *Words to Treasure* feature and read more about what God is like in the *Life in Bible Times* feature.



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End

Reading

Here



The LORD, who is strong and mighty. The LORD, who is mighty in battle. 9 Open wide, you gates. Open wide, you age-old doors. Then the King of glory will come in. 9 Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD who rules over all. He is the King of glory. Selah

### Psalm 25

### A psalm of David.

<sup>1</sup> LORD, I WORSHIP YOU.
 <sup>2</sup> My God, I trust in you.
 Don't let me be put to shame.
 Don't let my enemies win the battle over me.
 <sup>3</sup> Those who put their hope in you

Sut those who can't be trusted will be put to shame. They have no excuse.

<sup>4</sup>LORD, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you

Guide me in your truth. Teach me. You are God my Savior.

<sup>5</sup>LORD, remember your great mercy and

You have shown them to your people for a long time.

<sup>7</sup>Don't remember the sins I committed when I was young.

Don't remember how often I refused to obey you.

Remember me because you love me. Lord, you are good.

### What God Is Like

Psalm 23 says that God is like a shepherd. A shepherd loves and cares for his sheep. He watches them closely, protects them from danger, and makes sure they have enough



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### **BIBLE STORIES**

### NIrV

Read Psalm 46 and the devotion *God, Our Castle* which reminds us of God's unfailing strength. When we rely on him, we don't need to be afraid!



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## **BIBLE STORIES**

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PSAL	.M 48 673
That city is the holy place where the Most High God lives. <sup>5</sup> Because God is there, the city will not fall.	<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God. Sing praises. Sing praises to our King. Sing praises.
God will help it at the beginning of the day.	<sup>7</sup> God is the King of the whole earth. Sing a psalm of praise to him. <sup>8</sup> God rules over the nations.
<sup>6</sup> Nations are in disorder. Kingdoms fall. God speaks, and the people of the	He is seated on his holy throne. <sup>9</sup> The nobles of the nations come
earth melt in fear. <sup>7</sup> The LORD who rules over all is	together. They are now part of the people of the God of Abraham.
with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us.	The kings of the earth belong to God. He is greatly honored.
<sup>8</sup> Come and see what the LORD has done.	Psalm 48
See the places he has destroyed on the earth.	A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah.
<ul> <li><sup>9</sup>He makes wars stop from one end of the earth to the other. He breaks every bow. He snaps every spear. He burns every shield with fire.</li> <li><sup>10</sup>He says, "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth."</li> <li><sup>11</sup>The LORD who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us.</li> <li>Psalm 47 For the director of music. A psalm of the Sons of Korah.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li><sup>1</sup>The LORD is great. He is really worthy of praise. Praise him in the city of our God, his holy mountain.</li> <li><sup>2</sup>Mount Zion is high and beautiful. It brings joy to everyone on earth. Mount Zion is like the highest parts of Mount Zaphon. It is the city of the Great King.</li> <li><sup>3</sup>God is there to keep it safe. He has shown himself to be like a fort to the city.</li> <li><sup>4</sup>Many kings joined forces. They entered Israel together.</li> <li><sup>5</sup>But when they saw Mount Zion, they were amazed. They ran away in terror.</li> <li><sup>6</sup>Trembling took hold of them.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li><sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you nations. Shout to God with cries of joy.</li> <li><sup>2</sup>Do this because the LORD Most High is wonderful. He is the great King over the</li> </ul>	They felt pain like a woman giving birth. <sup>7</sup> LORD, you destroyed them like ships of Tarshish that were torn apart by an east wind.
whole earth. <sup>3</sup> He brought nations under our control. He made them fall under us. <sup>4</sup> He chose our land for us. The people of Jacob are proud of their land, and God loves them.	<ul> <li><sup>8</sup>What we heard we have also seen. We have seen it in the city of the LORD who rules over all. We have seen it in the city of our God. We have heard and seen that God</li> </ul>
<ul> <li><sup>5</sup>God went up to his throne while his people were shouting with joy.</li> <li>The LORD went up while trumpets were playing.</li> </ul>	makes it secure forever. <sup>9</sup> God, inside your temple we think about your faithful love. <sup>10</sup> God, your fame reaches from one end of the earth to the other.

End Reading Here

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This Psalm reminds us to praise God for all things. He is a great and powerful God!



### DEVOTIONALS

### NIrV

This devotional teaches us that we can study the world around us and learn more about God at the same time.

### March 16 Science Needs Faith aurie had wanted to be a scientist as long as she could remember. Her dad had made her a room in the attic where she could study things. Today she was looking at microscopic creatures in pond water. Lit-Words to Treasure tle one-celled animals buzzed around The heavens tell about the in the drop of water she was studying. glory of God. The skies show The thing that worried Laurie was that that his hands created them. scientists and Christians didn't seem Psalm 19:1 to like each other very much. Could she still be a Christian and a scientist? Science is about asking questions and finding answers. Faith is about asking questions and trusting God will help you with the answers. The important thing is to understand that God does know everything, and science is about learning about everything. If God is your teacher, can that be a bad thing? We know a lot about our amazing world, but there is still so much more to learn. There are still a lot of mysteries to solve both in science and about God. Many scientists have a strong belief and faith in God. Many believe that science helps them to become closer to God. So go explore the world with God as your guide and teacher. Did You Know? Did you know that scientists who were also Christians made some pretty major scientific discoveries including discovering the planet Neptune, discovering bacteria, measuring the speed of light, and helping us explore the moon? Pretty cool. 75

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### DEVOTIONALS

This devotional based on Psalm 102 helps us understand that God created our planet, which is covered with a variety of landscapes and features.



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### DEVOTIONALS

### NIrV

Read Psalm 98:1–3 in your Bible, and then read this devotional about why God never tires of answering our prayers.

### 708

### **PSALM 99**

PSALM 99

<sup>1</sup> The LORD rules. Let the nations tremble. He sits on his throne between the cherubim. Let the earth shake.
<sup>2</sup> Great is the LORD in Zion. He is honored over all the nations.
<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his great and

wonderful name. He is holy.

<sup>4</sup>The King is mighty and loves justice. He has set up the rules for fairness.

He has done what is right and fair for the people of Jacob.

<sup>5</sup>Honor the LORD our God. Worship at his feet. He is holy.

<sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron were two of his priests. Samuel was one of those who

worshiped him. They called out to the LORD. And he answered them.

<sup>7</sup>He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud.They obeyed his laws and the

orders he gave them.

<sup>8</sup>LORD our God, you answered them. You showed Israel that you are a God who forgives. But when they did wrong, you punished them.
<sup>9</sup>Honor the LORD our God. Worship at his holy mountain. The LORD our God is holy.

### **PSALM 100**

A psalm for giving grateful praise.

- <sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to the LORD, everyone on earth.
   <sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness.
- Come to him with songs of joy. <sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God. He made us, and we belong to

him. We are his people. We are the sheep belonging to his flock.

<sup>4</sup>Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple. Give praise as you enter its

courtyards. Give thanks to him and praise his name.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is good. His faithful love continues forever. It will last for all time to come.



### DOESN'T GOD EVER GET TIRED OF ANSWERING PRAYERS?

Nope. God never gets even a little bit tired of answering prayers. He loves to hear from us because he loves us. Jesus died for our sins so we would be forgiven for the wrong

things we've done — and to be friends with him. Those things never change. No matter how often we ask things of him, he will listen.

God wants to work in our lives to change our behavior, thoughts, and habits. We should never fear that we are

wearing him out with our prayers. You can even pray about the same thing because God wants to be a part of our lives and hear from us all the time.

CHECKOUT Psalm 98:1–3



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Praying is an important part of your relationship with God because it is how we speak to him directly. This page helps us understand what prayer is and how we do it.

# How to Pray

### How do | STart?

**Praying is not as hard as you might think.** What is hard is getting into the habit of talking with God every day. Start by picking a special time every day. Think about things you want to say: "Thank you" or "I'm sorry" or "Please help me." Then tell God those things. You don't have to use fancy words...talk to God like a dad, mom or a friend.

### Can | Tell God anyThing?

**You sure can!** There isn't a thing you could say to him that would make him stop loving you. Tell him when you're sad or grumpy. Thank him when everything's going your way. Lean on him when you're having a bad day. Talk to him just like you would talk to a friend. But you know what? Your friends might let you down. Your mom and dad might not always listen. But God will always listen and he'll understand you.

# Do I have to fold my hands and close my eyes when I pray?

That's one way to do it. You can pray while on your knees or standing up. You can pray while you're hugging your mom. You can talk to God at any time because he's always right there with you. And he wants you to be his friend.

10

Read Psalm 84, and then color this picture of a sparrow that has built her nest close to an altar to God.

Week 2 Sparrow Near the Altar



LORD who rules over all, how lovely is the place where you live! I can't wait to be in the courtyards of the LORD's temple. I really want to be there. My whole being cries out for the living God. LORD who rules over all, even the sparrow has found a home near your altar. My King and my God, the swallow also has a nest there, where she may have her young. Blessed are those who live in your house. They are always praising you. Blessed are those whose strength comes from you. They have firmly decided to travel to your temple. As they pass through the dry Valley of Baka, they make it a place where water flows. The rain in the fall covers it with pools. 17 0 JI

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God is our heavenly Father, and he wants us to know him and come to him. This section features a devotion and activities to help us understand the importance of our relationship with God.

## Week 16, Day 1 V Read About It

### God wants us to talk with him no matter how we feel.

Do you have a best friend? If you do, you may love to explore together. You probably spend a lot of time talk-

ing to each other. You like to share your thoughts and ideas. Best friends trust each other too. That's the kind of relationship God wants with his people!

God wants his people to spend time with him. God wants them to trust him. He wants them to share their thoughts, ideas, and feelings with him. That's true whether things are good or bad. And God even wants his people to share their biggest secrets with him! That's the kind of relationship God wants with his people.

Psalms are one way God's people in the Old Testament talked with him. God's people today can use these same words. They can be used by anyone when they talk with God. The psalms teach us about who God is and what he has done. They also help us talk to God about our deepest feelings and emotions. And we can do that when we're happy, when we're sad, or even when we're angry. Psalms help God's people talk with him no matter how they're feeling! Like a best friend, God just wants to hear from us!

What are some of the things you talk to God about? Do you feel better after you talk to him?



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# Week 16, Day 3 Finding Jesus in Psalms

The book of Psalms tells us about God. This book shows us it's okay for God's people to talk with him about anything. In other words, Psalms shows us what a healthy relationship with God looks like. Jesus shows us all those things too!

Some psalms talk about God as king. James 5:4 says that Jesus rules over all. Some psalms talk about God forgiving sin. Jesus forgives sin in Matthew 9:2. Some psalms talk about God's kindness and tender care for his people. In the New Testament, we read about the kindness and tender care of Jesus too. Many psalms talk about God's love. Here is what Jesus says in John 15:13. "No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends." And that's exactly what Jesus has done for us!

Look up the verses below. Draw a line to match the Psalm to the verse in the New Testament that best matches its message.

**Psalm 34:18** 

Matthew 9:2

Psalm 65:3

Psalm 36:7

Hattinew 7

John 15:13

Luke 1:78-79



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## NIrV

# Week 16, Day 5 Pray About It

### Dear God,

Thank you for loving me so much. I know you want to hear from me when I am happy or sad or hurt! Please help me be willing to tell you how I feel. Thank you for being ready to listen to me at any time. Help me to spend more time talking with you in prayer. Thank you for giving me the psalms to show me how to do this. I pray this because I believe in Jesus. Amen!

Color the verse below. Think about the words as you color them.



# Do Something About It

The Psalms are poems. They are like some poems because they talk about feelings and emotions. But the Psalms are different from other poems because all the Psalms focus on God. They tell us who God is and what he does. They also tell God who we are and how we're feeling. Many different people wrote the Psalms. They all talked about their emotions and feelings with God.

Now it's your turn to write your own psalm. Begin by deciding what emotion or feeling you want to talk to God about. Think about how you will say it. Write that on the first line. Then think about what God has done for you. Write about that on the second line. Remember, it doesn't have to rhyme. It just has to be honest! This is only the beginning. Write as many lines as you want. God wants to hear from you! When you're done writing your psalm, put it away someplace safe. It is a private talk between you and God.



**PSALMS** 

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20

Answer key for Think About It hidden message puzzle.



This is a fun activity to help us learn Psalm 23.

### **PSALM 23 MEMORY BOOKLET**

### STUFF YOU NEED:

- Unlined paper
- Three-hole punch
- Brass fasteners
- Pencils, crayons or markers
- Whiteboard and dry-erase marker

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Write Psalm 23 on the board.
- 2. Use the three-hole punch on the unlined paper, allotting at least five sheets per child (you may want to make extras, just in case more are needed).
- 3. Explain to children the process in which early Bible writers would copy Scripture by hand in order to share it with others. These people were often called scribes. Ancient copies of Scripture were often elaborately decorated around the edges. The early Bible scribes believed the Word of God was beautiful, so they wanted the copies to be beautiful as well.
- 4. Give your child the following instructions:
  - a. To help you memorize Psalm 23, you are going to copy it the way ancient scribes might have. Write very neatly, putting only a few lines of Scripture on each page.
  - b. After you are done writing, take time to decorate the edges and corners to show everyone how beautiful the Word of God is.
  - c. Assemble their pages using the brass fasteners to create a beautiful booklet to help them memorize this passage of Scripture.

**NIrVE** 

22

Psalm 23 tells us how Jesus is a shepherd to us. This activity will help us reflect on how he works in our lives and keeps us on the right path.

### THE LORD IS MY PERSONAL SHEPHERD

### **STUFF YOU NEED:**

- Notebook paper
- Pencils

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Have the words to Psalm 23 on a piece of paper for your children to see.
- 2. Explain that when any writer writes a song or poem, they are trying to express their personal feelings. Psalm 23 is a very personal, beautiful song that David wrote about his own life.
- 3. Give each child a few pages of notebook paper and some pencils.
- 4. Encourage your children to rewrite parts of Psalm 23 to reflect something personal to them. For example, instead of the line "He lets me lie down in fields of green grass," they can think up something that is true to your life, such as, "He helps me be patient with my sister."
- 5. Give them time to work on rewriting Psalm 23.
- 6. Ask them to share their personalized Psalm 23 with you or family.

There are so many things around us that God has created. Read Psalm 8, and then do this activity to celebrate the beauty God us placed around us.



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