

## SUMMER IN THE PSALMS — 2023

**Psalm 100****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*The book of Psalms is a collection of collections which includes poems, songs, and prayers. These are prayers, poems, and songs that the people of Israel would read and sing to remember who God is, what He has done, who they were in light of God's works, and now how they were called to live.*

**Call to Worship**

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will, they were created and have their being." - Revelation 4:8,11*

- **Big Idea:** We get to live a life of thankfulness because God is good.

**Starter****Evidences of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.
- **Ask:** Imagine Jesus came right now and welcomed us into his Kingdom. There would likely be a big feast and party. What else would it look like?

**Sing Together**

## Read - Psalm 100

### Psalm 100

#### A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

- 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his—we have not made ourselves;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Sometimes it may be difficult to experience the type of joy and express the type of gratitude this psalm speaks of. In this broken world we experience pain, loss, suffering, sorrow. Life can be difficult. The psalm is not just talking about moments of happiness, though. Rather, it is a call to remember a deep truth about who God is and what he has done for us so that in all circumstances we can have joy and thankfulness.

Jesus was a great picture of this. [Isaiah 53:3](#) foretold of Jesus before he came and called him a *'man of sorrows'* because of all the suffering he would endure. Yet, [Hebrews 12:2](#) tells us it was *'for the joy set before him he endured the cross.'* Jesus was able to hold onto the joy of what he and the Father were accomplishing, even while going through the most painful and horrific experience. Even while experiencing the sadness of his own people rejecting him.

Later, one of Jesus' enemies turned into one of his followers, Paul, wrote to encourage many believers to rejoice and give thanks. Paul was thrown into prison and suffered a lot at the hands of people he used to be like, all because he followed Jesus. But it was because Paul had seen who Jesus was and what he had done for him and the whole world that Paul could *"Rejoice always in the Lord"* and *"give thanks in everything"* ([Philippians 4:4-6](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:18](#))

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- ▶ Who is the psalmist calling to show acts of joy?
- ▶ What reason does the psalmist give for us to have such joy?
- ▶ Is it hard sometimes to be thankful and have joy?
- ▶ Do you think it's possible to show thankfulness and joy even while things are hard? Even while we experience sadness?
- ▶ What do you think of when you hear that 'the Lord is good and his love endures forever'?
- ▶ What has God done for us through Jesus that we can be thankful for and experience joy, even in hard times?

### **Breakout Time**

#### **Pray:**

God, you are the Creator of all things, including me. And you are good. We belong to you and we belong with you. Thank you for being a good God who wants to be with us, and who endured pain so we could be with you. Fill us with your Spirit and help us to love you more and more each day. In Jesus' name, amen.

#### **Craft:**

- Use the coloring sheet attached
- Make a shaker/tambourine for music! Use two paper plates, place 1/4 cup of dry rice or beans onto one plate, then place the second plate on top. You can either glue them together or staple it shut.

### **BLESS Activity**

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Eat** rhythm. Of course you are going to eat this week! But how can you do it with intention? What are some ways you can express gratitude and thankfulness together over what God has done and what he has provided, while sharing a meal together? Thank him for the food, thank him for the people sitting with you, and thank him for life in Jesus.

SHOUT FOR JOY  
TO THE LORD  
ALL THE EARTH.  
PSALM 100: 1

