



SUMMER IN THE PSALMS



TO THE TEACHER/PARENT

Our goal with the psalms this month is not necessarily to exposit theology in fullness, but to rest in who God is and that He is present. This week's particular psalm raises interesting theological questions for some. It is also a psalm of lament, which doesn't seem very restful at first. However, as we receive the invitation to be honest with our confusion and hurt about a broken world, we are pointed to a good God who is in control and will bring justice, healing, and ultimate rest. Our kids already know this world is not the way it should be. Help them see the God who is making it right.

- **BIG IDEA:** God cares about the world and will bring justice and goodness.

STARTER

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask the kids to share some way they've seen God at work this week. Any good thing, big or small, is a gift from God. Celebrate that together!

- **Discussion**

Imagine God sitting in a meeting with all the other heavenly spiritual beings discussing how the world should be run. What do you think God would discuss with them? What things would He want to make sure happen in the world?

SING TOGETHER

PSALM 82

God has always wanted to partner with humans to be His representatives to care for the world He made. In the same way, He partners with spiritual beings to be His representatives in the spiritual world. And in the same way as humans, many spiritual beings failed at the job of representing God and have rebelled against Him instead.

Psalms 82 is about a conversation God has with some of those spiritual beings. Here is what it says:

God takes His place in the great divine assembly;
he holds judgment among the spiritual beings and says:

*“How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?”*

*Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.*

*Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

*“The spiritual rulers know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.*

*“I said, ‘You are spiritual beings;
you are all sons of the Most High.’
But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler.”*

Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are yours to inherit and rule!

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- If God rules the whole earth, why do you think He would have appointed other spiritual beings to rule over different nations on His behalf?
- The end of the psalm says that God will rise up and take ownership and rule all the world one day. He is taking over where the other spiritual beings failed. What do you think He is going to change?
- When we hear this psalm, what does it sound like God cares about happening on earth? What does He want it to look like?
- When Jesus came, he talked a lot about the Kingdom of God and we are told Jesus is the King (*that’s what Messiah or Christ means*). How did Jesus fulfill the good ruling that this psalm describes?
- What do you think the world will look like when Jesus returns and fully rules over all the earth as King?



BREAKOUT TIME

Prayer:

God, please bring justice and healing to our world. Rescue those in need. Save us from our own sin, and also the sins of the world. Make everything right, in Jesus' power and name. Amen.

Craft/Activity:

- Planting Seeds: supplies will be provided. Have the kids place soil into white paper cups and plant a seed in it. They can write on the cup to label it and decorate the cup, if desired. While they are planting, discuss how God is ruler of the earth. It is His and He is in control. However, He allows us to partner with Him and contribute to the world. In the same way, they can plant this seed but God is the one who allows it to grow.
- In His Hands: use the attached sheets of paper. Have the kids color the picture of the earth and cut it out. Then, have them trace their hands, color, and cut out. They will glue the hands on top of the earth. Talk about how God is ultimately in control of and rules over the world. He has it in His hands!

BLESS Activity

For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week focus on the rhythm **Bless**. Is there someone in need you and your family can be a blessing to this week? Pray for the Spirit to give you opportunities.

