

LEARNER SHEET: PSALMS OF PRAISE

Psalms 30, 100, 111, 113, 117, 150



PRAYER TIME

Remember your partner's prayer needs—record them here.

DISCUSSION TIME

- **Who are the psalm writers of today? Research on the Internet some modern hymn writers, such as Marty Haugen, Brian Wren, and Ruth Duck. Read or listen to their lyrics and compare their themes to those of the ancient psalm writers. Have they added more modern examples of God's saving acts?**

- **Write a similar note of appreciation to God from your class in the following memo style. How does your memo compare to Psalm 113?**

DATE: Any Day

TO: Excellent Employee

FROM: Human Resources Department

RE: Note of Appreciation

This note is to express our appreciation to you for the exemplary work you have performed on behalf of our company. We acknowledge your display of loyalty, hard work, and extra effort.

- **Is it hard to hear the harsh words the writers of the psalms use in describing their enemies? Why or why not?**



THE BIG IDEA

God's people have always raised voices together to praise their steadfast Lord.



BIG FUN IDEA

God has enfolded people throughout history in love and care. Bake pretzels to illustrate God's arms wrapping around us in love and our arms crossed in prayer.

1. Mix 2 cups biscuit mix with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk to form a soft, sticky dough.
2. Knead the dough on a floured board.
3. Roll dough into 10" (25 cm) "snakes" and fashion into pretzel shapes.
4. Place pretzels on an ungreased baking sheet. Brush with melted butter; sprinkle with coarse salt.
5. Bake according to package directions. Cool.



BIG SERVING IDEA

Accompany your pastor on hospital visits or calls at nursing homes. Before you go, prepare psalm cards on the computer or by hand. Decorate them and pray for the people who will receive and use them.

LEARNER TAKE-HOME SHEET: PSALMS OF PRAISE

Psalms 30, 100, 111, 113, 117, 150



KEY WORDS

Keep a family white board someplace near the dinner table, and write these words on it. Try writing a family definition for each one during the week.

PRAISE

TRUST

POETRY

Take this sheet home and keep it someplace near the dinner table like on the fridge. At least three times next week at dinner, use Prayer Time and one other family activity to make your confirmation learning come alive!

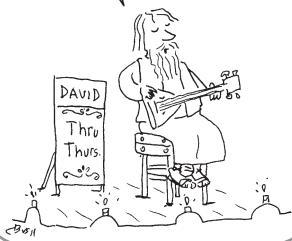
PRAYER TIME

Use Psalm 111 as a prayer and to reinforce the learning about psalms of praise and trust. Find the psalm in a family Bible and take turns reading the verses aloud. Psalm 111 is titled "Praise for God's Wonderful Works." Listen for examples of the wonderful works; you might want to mark them in the Bible. Repeat the last verse of the psalm as you close.

TALK TIME

- Now that you have read Psalm 111 as a prayer, remind one another of the various forms of prayer that are possible. An ancient Christian mystic once said, "If the only prayer you ever said was 'thanks,' that would be enough." What do you think of that idea? How do you thank God in your family? How do you thank one another?
- Write questions that puzzled family members as you listened to Psalm 111. What does each of you think verse 10 means ("The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom")? *Fear* in the Bible means "awe."
- The psalm writers expressed powerful emotions such as joy and sorrow through their poetry. Does your family encourage everyone to find healthy outlets for the many feelings they carry around inside them? Who is writing and creating in your family? Do you realize that attending worship offers a necessary place to express your feelings of wonder and worry to God?

This one is a little Psalm I wrote one day when I was lying by some still waters.



WEB TIME

Gather around the family computer and use an Internet search engine to search for the key words: *praise*, *trust*, *poetry*. Talk about the most interesting site you find. You also could do a search for the history of pretzels. What did you learn?

RITUAL TIME

Take a silent walk together around the block or neighborhood. No talking allowed, only observing. What's God doing in your neighborhood, through nature and people? At first you will probably feel awkward because we're not used to silence. Hang in there as you fall into each other's pace and presence. You can talk about the experience afterward, or just honor it as an attempt to live in God's holiness together.

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