

LEADER'S GUIDE

PRESCHOOL AND TODDLERS

BIG PICTURE:

PSALMS

BIG IDEA:

ENTER HIS GATES

BIG POINT:

PRAISE GOD WITH A THANKFUL HEART

BIG WORD:

"FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE FOUNDATION OF TRUE WISDOM. ALL WHO OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS WILL GROW IN WISDOM. PRAISE HIM FOREVER!" PSALM 111:10 (NLT)



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DOCUMENT PURPOSE

This document is the Leader's Guide for BIG Picture PSALMS. It contains a summary of the BIG Message 'LIVE'.

The BIG 'Psalms, Proverbs, Parables - Wisdom for Life' User Guide document contains all the service element information, including the large group segment of your service.

Make sure you read through and prayerfully study this material prior to your service to be fully prepared to minister to your children.

PSALMS PROVERBS & PARABLES

☆ WISDOM FOR LIFE ☆

BIG PICTURE: PSALMS BIG IDEA: ENTER HIS GATES

PPP
1.1

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this lesson children will:

- Discover the book of Psalms.
- Understand that when we live with gratitude we praise God with thankful hearts.
- Learn about the life of king David.

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BIG MESSAGE 'LIVE' OUTLINE

DOCUMENT PURPOSE

Use this outline to construct a message that works for you and your children's ministry.

TRANSITION

If you can hear me, spin around
If you can see me, sit right down
Hands in laps, you're doing great
It's Big Message time so sit up straight!

INTRO

Have you been to a book store or a library? There are so many books! You can find a book on almost any subject. One book could be all about bird watching, while another is all about cooking. Each book is about one subject, cover to cover.

Did you know that this book, the Bible, is actually not just one book, inside it has 66 books! That's like this entire pile of books here, packed into one big book. Each book of the Bible is different, they're written by various authors, to all kinds of people for different reasons. Cover to cover, this book is about God's love for us. The Bible gives us wisdom for life. The book of Psalms, along with Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and Job, is known as a wisdom book. Psalm 119:66 (CEV) "Give me wisdom and good sense. I trust your commands." We're going to be learning all about God's wisdom from the Bible, wisdom for life!

We're going to open the Bible and learn all about the book of Psalms. Of all the books in the Bible, Psalms is the longest book by far. It's the only book that was written by many authors. It contains both the longest chapter (Psalm 119) and the shortest chapter (Psalm 117) of the Bible.

The book of Psalms teaches us to focus on God instead of ourselves. It teaches us to praise God and worship Him both on our own and together as believers. Psalms shows us that we can have faith in God no matter what we're going through. No matter how we are feeling; if we're winning or losing, happy or sad, excited or angry, there is a Psalm that can help us.

Scripture References:

1 Samuel 16:7
2 Samuel 7
Psalm 8
Psalm 100:1-2
Psalm 100:4
Psalm 119:66
Psalm 121
Psalm 136:1
Psalm 145:1-7
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Supplies Needed:

A pile of books (66 if you can!), a Bible.

STORYTELLING

Meet David. David was the youngest of Jesse's seven sons. God sent the prophet Samuel to Jesse's house to anoint the future king. Samuel met all of David's older brothers, they were tall, handsome and athletic, but God didn't choose them to be king. God had chosen young David. 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV) "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"

What kind of heart did David have? David had a heart that loved God and was thankful! Young David was just a shepherd boy with a few stones and a sling shot and he defeated the Philistine giant Goliath. God took young David from tending sheep in a pasture to being king over Israel. Once as a much older man, king David was speaking with the prophet Nathan, "I've got an idea! I want to build a temple that can be a home for the Ark of God and a place for God's people to worship."

Nathan said, "That sounds great! Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it for the Lord is with you".

Nathan was a prophet, a person who God used to deliver messages. That night God spoke to Nathan a message for the king. He said, "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: You're going to build a 'house' for me to live in? Why, I haven't lived in a 'house' from the time I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt till now.'"

"David, I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have defeated all your enemies. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. Instead of you building a house for me, I will make a house for you David. When your days are over I will raise up your child to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name."

Nathan told David what God had said about his plans to build a temple. How did David respond? Do you think David had an unthankful heart (show the unthankful heart picture), or do you think David had a thankful heart (show the thankful heart picture).

David had a thankful heart! Even though the king had his heart set on building a temple he didn't grumble and complain, when Nathan told king David what God had said, he rejoiced! He praised God with a thankful heart.

"Who am I Lord, that you have brought me to this place in life? But that's nothing compared to what's coming, for you've also spoken of my family far into the future, given me a glimpse into tomorrow. What can I possibly say? You've done all this not because of who I am but because of who you are".

"This is what makes you so great, God! There is none like you, no God but you, nothing to compare with what we've heard with our own ears. So now, great God, this word that you have spoken to me and my family, guarantee it permanently! Do exactly what you've promised! Bless my family; keep your eye on them always."

This man, a shepherd who became king, has the right attitude, he had a thankful heart! He obeyed God and God blessed him.

The book of Psalms, gives us wisdom for life. King David had a thankful heart, just listen to him in Psalm 100:1-2,5 (NIV); "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

Enter His gates with Thanksgiving. Praise God with a thankful heart!

Reminder:

This is a great time to play the 'Big Story' video to your group. We find it breaks up your Big Message Live really well and keeps the children focused.

Supplies Needed:

Heart pictures printed from the supplied print material files.

MY FAVOURITE VERSE

I have a favourite verse about praising God. It reminds me to praise God with a thankful heart. Would you like me to share this very amazing Bible verse with you? (Get response.)

This is from Psalm 100:4 (NIV) "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Praise God with a thankful heart. And that is my favourite verse about praising God, I think it might become one of your favourites as well.

SUMMARY

I'm thankful for so many things in my life. I'm thankful for my family, the sunshine, chocolate and puppy dogs. Even with so many things to be thankful for, we can sometimes get in an ungrateful bad attitude. We can lose sight of the things we should appreciate and become grumpy, critical or down in the dumps. Don't you think it's much better to have an attitude of gratitude? What if you're eating a yummy ice cream and you trip over and it falls on the ground? You can be mad about losing half your ice cream, or you can have an attitude of gratitude and be thankful for the half of ice cream that you did get to eat! We learn from the Psalms that David had a thankful heart and we can too! When we live with an attitude of gratitude we praise God with a thankful heart. Psalm 100:4 (NIV) "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Praise God with a thankful heart!

PRAYER

Dear God,

You're mighty, powerful, loving, kind and worthy to be praised. Thank You that You give us so much to be thankful for, help us to keep an attitude of gratitude!

In Jesus name, Amen