

PSALMS

Family Devotional (5/31/20)

Key Point: God is attentive to the hurting.

Today, we want our kids to see evidence in Psalm 88 that God's children can go to God with anything. They can cry out to God with all their pain, suffering, and fear; and in His kindness, he is attentive to their prayers.

What we want the kids to know and do:

- God is attentive. He hears and responds to the prayers of His children.
- God is compassionate. He sees, cares, and acts when his children are in need.
- God is wise. He knows what is best.
- God meets us where we are.
- We want them to take their big emotions and fears to God. We want them to feel comfortable going to God in their joy AND their pain.

Text for Study: Psalm 88 (88:1-2)

O Lord, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.
Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!

Create discipleship time: As a family, listen to the sermon, read through the elementary portion above, and talk about God's Word.

1. What kind of Psalm is Psalm 88?
A lament Psalm.
2. What does it mean to lament?
To honestly bring all of you (your true feelings and thoughts) to God.
3. Is the person who wrote this Psalm honest with God?
Yes. He begs God to listen to his fears, pain, and needs.
4. Is this person a child of God, even though he is hurting and yelling at God?
Yes. He is crying out to the God he believes in.
5. Does God want us to come to Him just like we are? No matter how much we are hurting?
Yes. God wants His children to come to Him when they are hurting/suffering. When we are weak and suffering, but put all our trust in God to rescue us, it gives God the opportunity to show His strength.
6. Can we lament to God when we are hurting?
Yes. God is attentive and compassionate. He will hear our prayers and care enough to act/respond.
7. Will God always respond the way we want Him to?
No, but God is wise. He knows what is best, so we can trust that the answer He gives to our cries of lament, is the answer that is best for us.

8. Why can we have hope and joy in the midst of our hurt?

Because Jesus took the ultimate suffering and pain on himself, so we don't have to. We can look forward to a day when God's children will live with Him in perfection.

****Additional passages for family study:** Psalm 30:4-5; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 5:7; 1 John 5:14-15.

Capture discipleship moments: Recap by asking your kids what they learned.

1. What did we learn about God today?
God listens to and cares for the hurting.
2. What did we learn about ourselves today?
We can take our hurt to God.

Pray together as a family. Ask each member of your family – parents included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Assign someone to pray for that person's request. Challenge them to pray for that person all week long. Parents, pray a blessing over your children as you close.

This Month's Memory Verse

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! **Psalms 34:8**