

Hello!

Welcome to the first week of **Faith@ Home!**

This Sunday is the beginning of the all-church study of Summer Psalms during worship. I am really excited about the chance to study the Psalms as a church family on Sundays and within individual homes during the week.

If you are just beginning to worship or read the Bible with (or without) kids, this is a great place to start. Psalms tend to:

- Be short chapters
- Contain vivid imagery and analogies
- Be self-contained, not relying on other chapters to make sense

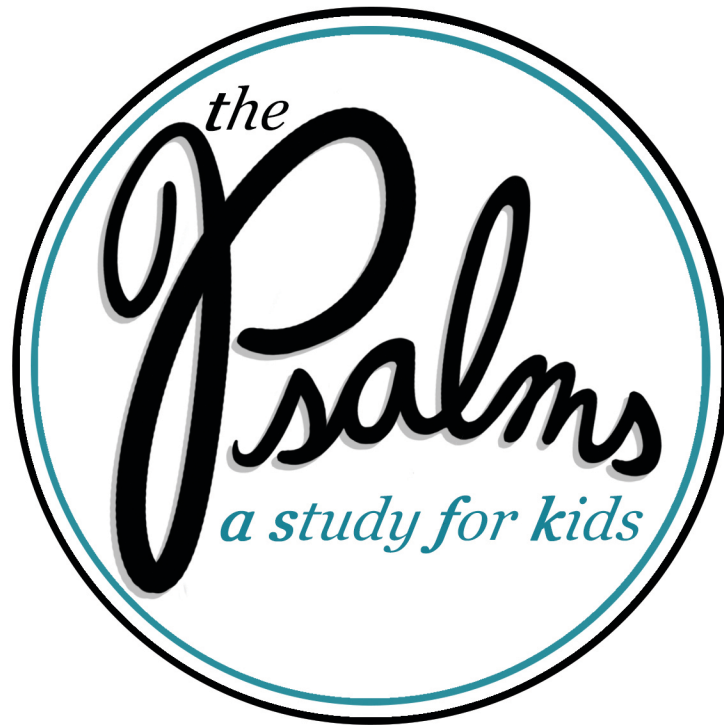
The content of Psalms is one that can be understood at the head and heart level for people of all ages:

- Children can realize that God gave us our emotions
- Teens can be reassured that they aren't dealing with big feelings in a vacuum
- Adults can remember their posture before God in following people of faith who walked through all kinds of circumstances and sentiments

My prayer is that **Faith @ Home** will give you and the people in your home a chance to continue to explore the ideas of the specific psalm during the week, and gain additional tools for exploring through Psalms together this summer.

Sometime during this week, you may want to check out a resource or two:

- "The Promises of the Lord," an acoustical rendering of Psalm 12 by Karl Kolhase with imagery and lyrics:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzFfwxnIEVQ>
- The book of Psalms is a collection of wisdom and poetry. The 150 psalms in this book are sometimes described as belonging to a category, or genre of psalms: Wisdom, Lament, Praise, Thanksgiving, and Royal psalms. It can be helpful to understand the purpose and features of the different psalms. You can learn a bit more in the documents called
 - "Introduction to the Psalms"
 - "What is a Wisdom Psalm?"
- A video explaining the process of refining metals:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF7GnfKQfTA>



The Psalms is a collection of wisdom and poetry

What is the book of Psalms about? Chances are you have already read parts of this book in your Bible or have heard verses from it. The Bible holds many books that fall under different categories. There are books that tell stories called narratives, books on the law which teach us about God's law, and books on history which teach us about the prophets of the Old Testament, how God cared for His people, and in the New Testament how God established His church. Sitting in the middle of all of these books is the Psalms: a book of wisdom and poetry.

The book of Psalms is one of the largest books in the Bible and it contains 150 different psalms! These psalms are written by many different authors who are sometimes referred to as psalmists. Most famous among them is King David (you might remember him best as the one who defeated Goliath). Since many different authors contributed to the Psalms, and it is a wisdom book, the psalms are sometimes each read a little differently. This is because the different psalms are written in different styles. Learning to recognise these different styles will help you better read and understand the Psalms. There are five parts to this study and in each part you are going to read and learn about one of these styles.

As you learn about the different styles in the next pages of this study remember that one style is not better than the others. Every single one of the psalms is in the Bible to help you grow to know God more. That is pretty cool, right? Before you jump in to Part 1, say a prayer to God thanking Him for giving us His word, the Bible, and then ask Him to help you understand it as you begin.



Wisdom Psalms teach a principle or idea .

Wisdom Psalms are similar to writings from another book in the Bible - the book of Proverbs. They guide us and teach us how to better participate with those around us. It is important to remember that psalms were not meant simply to be read. Some were written as songs, others as poetry, but all of them are still teaching you something.



What was the last thing that was hard for you to learn? Did you try different ways to learn it? When we want to learn new things in life we read books, watch movies, learn songs, ask for advice, or share stories. These different approaches help us better understand what we are trying to learn. It is in similar ways that the Wisdom Psalms teach us. As you read them think about how the psalmist was trying to talk to their audience. Look for the different ways you can observe one idea being explained.

Wisdom Psalms use many ways to teach us and help us better understand what God wants us to know.