
FAITH @ HOME

WEEK OF JUNE 14, 2020

Some ideas for continuing Psalm 1 through the week

A note about imagery and children:

Don't be afraid to unpack the metaphors in the Psalms with kids. Children are literal, but studies show that young preschoolers can understand analogies and symbolic relationships. This ability grows, and by upper elementary school, children are quite adroit at understanding and making comparisons. Have fun with this!

Parents with littles – if you just need one or two ideas, the don't-miss ideas for young kids are in green.

Black font is an all-play for children, teens, and adults

Try reading or listening to Psalm 1 in several translations this week.

It's easy to switch between translations on the (free) YouVersion Bible App.

Walk, stand, sit (verses 1 and 2)

For adults and families with older children or teens, you might want to spend some time thinking or talking about the descent described in verse 1 – the idea of how much influence we allow people to have on us, and how we make decisions about that. As Christ-followers, we are called to be in the world, and yet we are also called the salt of the earth, charged to keep our saltiness. What is the source of our saltiness and how do we keep it? How do these ideas connect and play out in our lives?

For families with younger children, you might want to use an imaginative play toy set to act out the declining progression of keeping company with someone who is from walking together with someone who has a bad idea to standing around together, to sitting down together and hatching the idea into existence. How can we know if something is a good or bad idea and if we should participate in it?

Rooted (verses 2 and 3)

1. Take a look at one of these videos showing the parts of a plant and talk about why roots are important:
 - <https://youtu.be/X6TLFZUC9gI> (cartoon illustrated video - great for littles and still interesting for parents who aren't botany experts)
 - <https://youtu.be/-BNF3rpZUDU> (horticulturist explains in laymen's terms the 4 purposes of a root system). How do these four purposes of a root system fit in with verse 3 "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water..."

2. Dinnertime conversation all-play questions:
 - How can we each be like a tree that is well watered?
 - How can we develop healthy root systems?
 - Why do we want to be well-rooted?
 - Do all trees bear fruit (edible or inedible)?
 - What good is a tree that withers up?
 - What happens when there is a copse of trees by the bank of a stream? What purposes does that cluster of trees serve in the environment? How does that relate to the Church?

3. Pay attention to the trees you see this week, and talk about where they are planted, their purposes, their strength, root systems, height, and how it might be a metaphor for our lives and the lives of others we know.

4. Check out this video, "Rooted and Fruitful," from Bethlehem Evangelical Academy in Palestine:

<https://youtu.be/wdxox057MFA>

If you want to know more about the artists and kids in the video, check out this video about the children's school - *Rooted and Fruitful: the Story of Bethlehem Academy*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXwwCQcoASs>

Why do these leaders need to be like well-watered trees? How does this video show roots and fruits?

5. **Play Freeze-A-Tree tag:** This is an all-play, with adults and kids. One player is "it," and the other players run, trying not to get tagged. When a player is tagged, they freeze like a tree – arms up or out like tree branches. They get unfrozen when another player tags them and the unfrozen player shouts, "I want to be rooted and fruited!" Play continues until everyone is frozen, and a new player is chosen to be "it." This will connect with kids more if you have watched the "[Rooted and Fruited "music video](#)" first.

Blown away (verses 4-6)

You may like to see a short video of people separating the wheat from the chaff manually. The harvesters toss a forkful of the unseparated wheat into the air. The wind blows the waste (chaff) away, and the grains (fruit) fall back to the pile. Kids may like to see how the chaff blew and landed on the farmers' dog. You can also search for a video of a combine in action, which does this through engine power in the field during wheat harvest.

https://youtu.be/G_gfgxkZryM