
FAITH @ HOME

WEEK OF JULY 26, 2020

Some ideas for continuing Psalm 136 through the week

All of this week's activities, games and discussion are written with families with young children in mind. You will see that they also scale well for families with older kids, teens and adult-only households as reflection and prayer points, journal prompts, or discussions with friends. We hope you will enjoy connecting with God and others around the ideas in Psalm 136 this week.

Remembering to be thankful

Use this activity to expand on the concept of thankfulness for God's faithfulness in our lives.

- Gather some yarn or string (if you have pony beads or something similar those can be used as well).
- Cut a long length of yarn for each family member.
- Begin by stating something you are thankful for that God has done in your life, for example: provided a home, given you a family, provided work for you to do.
- Tie a knot in your length of yarn as you share something you are thankful for.
- Continue down your length of yarn sharing several items while tying knots to represent them. If you are using beads, they can be tied into the yarn as well to add some extra flair.
- Allow each family member to take a turn marking the things they are thankful for down their length of yarn.

The Thankfulness Game

This is similar to the previous activity but requires either the game Candyland or the game Pick-up Sticks.

Create a color coded key to use while playing the game, for example color a red dot and write next to it- "name a person you are thankful for", color a blue dot and write- "name a thing you are thankful for", color a yellow dot and write- "name an experience you are thankful for", etc. Proceed with game play stopping to share something that corresponds to the appropriate color of stick chosen or card drawn.

Exploring the idea of "forever"

God's love endures forever. Forever can be a hard concept for young minds to grasp. Begin by thinking together of other words or phrases that mean something similar to forever, such as eternity, never ending, "to infinity and beyond". If you like, you can even look up some of these terms and compare definitions.

After your discussion, choose a round object to help illustrate the idea of forever. You can use a wedding ring, a hula hoop, or even draw a circle on a piece of paper. Demonstrate by having everyone trace around the object with their finger. Ask them to notice when they are finished, when have they come to the end? When would they come to the

end of the circle? The answer of course is never! They could go on forever. That is the length and breadth of God's love for us.

God's faithfulness to Israel

Psalm 136 discusses how God was faithful and showed his love to Israel over many long years. Deepen your family's understanding of this passage by adding in a reading of Exodus 14:5-31. Discuss together some of the other ways God rescued and showed His love to his people that are highlighted in Psalm 136. You could expand further on this idea by using some of the things shared in previous activities and creating a personal or family version of Psalm 136. Your family psalm could look something like this:

Give thanks to the Lord for keeping us safe during this time.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to him who provided Dad with a new job.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to God for comforting us when grandma died.

His love endures forever.