

Emerge 2024 - Term 2 - Weeks 1-5

Term Challenge

Commit to reading 5 Psalms a week, following the Bookmark prompts.

Week 1 - 28th Apr

God is Worthy - Psalm 33

Bottom Line: The Psalms are a model for authentic worship. God is both Creator and Saviour. In any season, He is worthy and can handle all our responses.

Pray: Use this as a template for your prayer time this week.

- Thank the Lord for 5 things He has created.
- Apologise for 3 times you have mistreated or disrespected His creations.
- However you are feeling today, tell God and ask for his presence and support

Parent cue: Faith flourishes in the context of healthy and intentional relationships. Start by sharing your life and then asking your child about this. Without judgement, model honesty and let them know you want to hear what's going on in their life.

Share: Sometimes we move to fast. Between jobs, school and extra curricular activities, we can fail to pause and give thanks to God. Gather your family for an intentional meal this week. During the meal, share with each member of your family why you thank God for them.

Ask: At the end of the meal, pray together as a family. Invite family members to share one thing they're thankful for during the prayer. Open the time of prayer, and after each person has given thanks, close by thanking God and asking Him to help your family live out thankfulness this week.

Memory Verse

Psalm 23 - Consider how your family will celebrate learning an entire Psalm together. Writing? Song? Actions? Drawing? Poster in the bathroom?

Week 2 - 5th May

God is Worthy of our Thanksgiving - Psalm 116

Bottom Line: The Psalms are a model for authentic worship. Giving thanks is the way we learn and show others that God is involved in our worlds and in our lives. When we thank God, we are worshipping Him.

Pray: Practice speaking this blessing over the member of your family and friends this week.

"Thank you for [name]. [Name], may your eyes be open to the work of God in and around you. May your heart be humbled that He works in your life because of His great love for you. Each day when you see things to be thankful for, direct your thanksgiving to Jesus."

Parent cue: Intermediate age kids often have a hard time with the posture of gratitude. They're developmentally somewhere between being children, with parents taking care of most of their needs, to being young adults with increasing amounts of responsibility. They may feel the good things they have are deserved. Often it isn't until something of their is lost that they truly appreciate its worth. Modelling an attitude of thankfulness for simple day-to-day blessings we often take for granted, can craft a spirit of gratitude within them.

Do together: For one week, make a running list of all the things you're thankful for. This could be anything and everything: your house, your friends, Jesus, a certain food, the fact you heard your favourite song on the radio, getting a great grade on a test – anything. Do you need to action on these things? Tell someone your thankful for them?

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Week 3 - 12th May

God is Worthy of our Trust - Psalm 62

Bottom Line: David cried out to God as his protector and provider and called us to put our trust in God instead of falling into the trap of finding our security and rest in something or someone else.

Pray: “Holy Spirit, fill my heart daily and give me courage to pass my fears to you. Open my eyes to your greatness, Lord, and show me your love. Help me grow to fully trust that you are my true protector.”

Parent cue: Intentional conversations with your child can happen, but they can't be forced. They happen 'along the way'. Listen for anyone in your family using the word 'trust'. Use this word as a catalyst for an intentional conversation. Share an experience that helped you learn to trust God more. Remember, your child can relate more to a story where you learned from a mistake than when you acted perfectly. As you're sharing, notice your child's interest. If they are engaged, ask them what area of your life they are struggling to entrust to God. Ask them if it's okay to check in to see how they are doing in this area with God. Commit to praying for them and **speak this blessing** over them:

“[Child's name], may you daily come to God with your heart wide open, believing that He is all you need. As God continues to open your eyes to His greatness and soften your heart with His love, may you grow to fully trust that He is your true protector.”

Memory Verse

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Week 4 - 19th May

God is Worthy of our Confession - Psalm 51

Bottom Line: God invites us to come to Him in every season of our lives — even in our sin. God is both just and loving. Nothing is harder on sin than the love of God.

Pray: “Lord, may my eyes and ears be open to your guiding hand. Your path leads to life, and when I know you are always waiting to love and restore me when I stray from it. I confess my wrongdoings to you.”

Parent cue: Knowing that God is worthy of our confession allows children to be cleansed from the residue of sin and formed into the likeness of Christ. The act of confession reveals a trust that God's path for our lives is a path to life, not restriction. When we sin, our instinct is to hide. We see this with Adam and Eve, and we know it from our own experience. Ask God to reveal how you can create a safe environment in your home for your entire family to practice confession and forgiveness. Courageously and honestly lead the way for your family as you confess your sins to God. Confess with hope, by seeing who God is and affirming that He can handle anything. Model humility and honesty by asking those around you for forgiveness.

Do together: Ask God to reveal a sin you need to confess. Sit, be still, and listen until God reveals something to you. Then, write out your confession on a piece of paper. Be bold, be honest, and be specific. Pray together and ask for God's forgiveness. Take your paper and shred or burn them as a reminder that thanks to Jesus, our sins are washed away.

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Week 5 - 26th May

God is Worthy of our Lament - Psalm 89

Bottom Line: God is worthy of our worship in times of both jubilation and pain. Psalms of lament don't indicate distrust of God. Rather, bringing our most precious hurts and frustrations to God are an act of trust. Walking through the psalms of lament help us see that ultimately God is in control and God is good.

Pray: "God, would you align my heart to Yours? Show me the world through Your eyes. Show me how my life fits into Your mission. How can I help enhance Your reputation? Show me what You love and help me to love it too. Show me what You hate and help me to hate it too. I celebrate that You are a God who judges evil and protects the innocent. I look forward to the day when Your goodness will overshadow evil."

Parent cue: Intermediate kids can sometimes seem to be overly dramatic to observers. It's not uncommon for students to experience outbursts and mood swings. With all the changes going on as they transition out of childhood, one of the biggest changes we notice is emotional. Maintaining balance can be difficult. Our availability, sensitivity, and empathy are key in helping them navigate these significant changes. When we learn to be patient with our child's development and model a trust in God's goodness and timing, we can help them learn to go to God in difficult times.

Do together: All families go through difficult times. With a family member, recall a time where you or someone in your family was lamenting (such as a family crisis or death). Did you or your family member take your lament to God? What outcome did that choice have? How else can you show support for that person?

Suggested Term 2 Reading Plan - on Youversion Bible App

