

IT CHANGES EVERYTHING

THE LESSON: PSALMS THAT RECOUNT..

Before Jesus came, before the prophets even spoke of God's promise to send a Messiah, the writers of the Hebrew scriptures (which we call the Old Testament) understood the importance of remembering what God had done for them in the past. As we consider this, we're going to look at some excerpts from the book of Psalms. The psalms form the ancient prayer book of Israel, which the Christian Church also uses in prayers, chants, and songs.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

At home, find a quiet space and spend some time writing your own version of Psalm 136. Think about the things in your own life that have been blessings and write them in the same format.

An example might start something like this:

I will give thanks to God for his love endures forever,
to him who gave me loving parents,
for his love endures forever,
to him who...

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy power and come among us; that by thy protection we may be rescued from the bondage of our sins, and saved by thy mighty deliverance; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen. (COLLECT FOR A PAROCHIAL MISSION, BCP PAGE 326)

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PSALM 41: **WE HAVE HEARD**

“O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old...”

PSALM 78: **TELL TO THE COMING GENERATIONS**

“We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ⁵He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; ⁸and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.”

PSALM 136: **SOMETHING THAT ENDURES FOREVER**

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever...
⁴to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;
⁵to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever...
¹³to him who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures forever;
¹⁴and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever...
¹⁶to him who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever...
²³It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;
²⁴and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;
²⁵he who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.
²⁶Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.”