

PSALMS

Family Devotional (7/5/20)

Key Point: God's children know it is best to be near God.

Today, we want our kids to learn that Asaph, the author of Psalm 73, saw the wicked all around him succeeding in the face of God's promise to do good for Israel. While that originally felt unfair, Asaph came to realize that God is in control and only He knows what is best. All Asaph needed was God's presence.

What we want the kids to know and do:

- God is good: He is what is best.
- God is wise: He knows what is best.
- God is loving: He does what is best.
- God doesn't always do what *we think* is best, but because He is wise and loving, we can know that what He *does* is what is best.
- We want them to recognize that what is best for them is to be near God.

Text for Study: Psalm 73 (73:23-26)

Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
 you hold my right hand.
 You guide me with your counsel,
 and afterward you will receive me to glory.
 Whom have I in heaven but you?
 And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
 My flesh and my heart may fail,
 but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Create discipleship time: As a family, listen to the sermon, read through the elementary portion above, and talk about God's Word.

1. Do you remember who wrote this Psalm?
 Asaph.
2. Read verse 1. What does Asaph know about God?
 God is good to those who are pure in heart. He is good to His children.
3. Read verse 3. What does Asaph see in the world around him?
 He sees those who are wicked prospering, or succeeding.
4. Read verse 21. What does Asaph say about himself?
 He was embittered towards, or angry at, God.
5. Based on what Asaph knows about God and what he sees in the world, why was Asaph angry with God? Because what he knew to be true about God did not match what he saw in the world. Instead of God doing what Asaph thought was good (success for God's children) he saw those who did not love God winning.
6. What does it mean that God is wise?
 He knows what is best.

7. Does God always do what we think is best? Why not?
No, because we are not wise. Our thoughts and actions are twisted and broken by sin. Only God truly knows what is best for us.
8. What does it mean that God is good?
He is what is best.
9. Read Mark 8:32. If God is what is best for us, what do we need most in this world?
To be with God. To be in relationship with Him. To be saved from our sin by Him.
10. Read verses 23-28. What did Asaph realize he needed most?
God Himself. Asaph realized that even though the wicked succeed on earth, they will ultimately face the punishment for their sins: eternal death (v. 27). But because Asaph knows, loves, and trusts God, He knows He will get to spend eternal life with God (vv. 24-26). All that matters is God; Asaph finds hope and joy in His presence (v. 23).
11. Where can God's children find hope (confidence in the future) and joy (one of a kind, good feeling given by the Holy Spirit) when the things of this world don't go their way?
God's children can find hope in knowing that they will live forever in the perfect presence of God.

****Additional passages for family study:** Mark 8:32.

Capture discipleship moments: Recap by asking your kids what they learned.

1. What did we learn about God today?
God is, knows, and does what is best for His children.
2. What did we learn about ourselves today?
It is best for us to be near God.

Pray together as a family. Ask each member of your family – parents included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Assign someone to pray for that person's request. Challenge them to pray for that person all week long. Parents, pray a blessing over your children as you close.

This Month's Memory Verse

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations. **Psalm 67:1-2**