

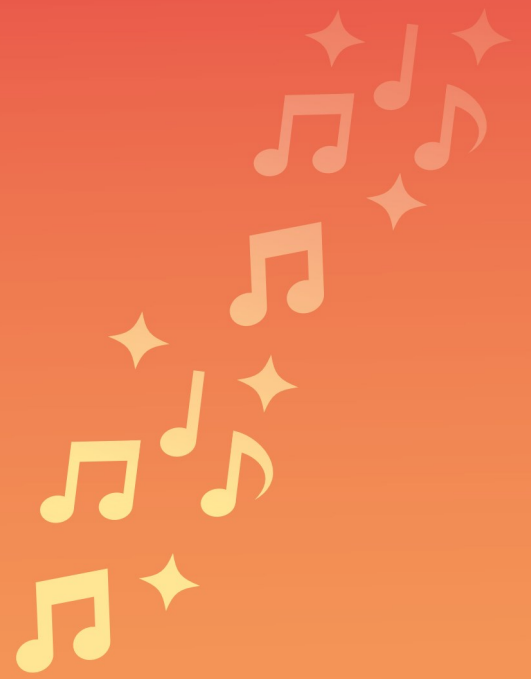


St Helen's
Bishopsgate

Bible time booklet | 3-5's

Psalms

Songs to sing whilst we wait
for God's king



Psalms

The book of Psalms could be described as a playlist. It is a playlist of 150 songs which God has given us. Psalm 1 encourages us to listen and meditate on God's playlist. Psalm 2 tells us what God's playlist is about. It is about his king, whom he will raise up to smash human rebellion and give refuge to those who surrender to him.

As we look at the Psalms we see many things: who is/isn't the king, what the king is like and what he does, how we as readers should hold on to what we hear about the king, and how we as readers should respond to the king. God's king, which the Psalms describe, is the Lord Jesus. Let the Psalms give you and your children a fuller, more vivid view of your king, as well as guide your response to and relationship with God.

The Psalms were given to the people of Israel as a playlist of songs to sing whilst they waited for God's promised king. The Psalms are given to us in our Bibles as a playlist of songs to sing whilst we wait for the return of God's promised king. Do pray that as you meditate on them, you would grow your appreciation for him.

Action rhyme

For each Bible story, the children will learn a rhyme to help them remember the big idea. Each time we will recap the verse below and learn a new verse too.

Psalms are songs to sing as we're waiting for God's king,

Psalms are songs to sing as we're waiting for God's king,

Psalms are songs to sing as we're waiting for God's king,

Psalms are songs to sing!

All the rhymes are to the tune of the song 'do your ears hang low?'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDIACz2iCbo>

Using the material – a guide for parents

We hope these studies will help you:

- To know what we've been teaching in Sunday school - so you can talk to your child about it and pray for them as they hear about God's king from the Psalms.
- To give you an opportunity to dig into the passage with your child and clarify or build their understanding.
- To give you an opportunity to help your child think through further how they are responding to what they're hearing in God's word.

We hope that this will enable us to better partner with you as you continue to teach your children about the Lord Jesus.

Why not get into the habit of praying with your child, asking for God's help, before you start the study. Then cover as much of the study as you feel able to with the age and attention span of your child. You could go through the study over a meal time or at bedtime. You could also do the study over a whole week, doing a question each day.

God made Jesus king

Jesus is the king. Jesus the king is in charge of everyone and everything. He is in charge of me. He is in charge of you. He's in charge of your mum and dad too. He's even in charge of all the kings who rule on earth. Who made Jesus king? God did! God made Jesus king.

But oh no. There's a problem. Some people don't want Jesus to be king. Some people hate it that Jesus is king. In the Bible, in the book called Psalms, we hear about these people who don't want Jesus to be king. The kings of the earth don't want Jesus to be king. The kings of the earth hate that Jesus is king. Imagine if all these kings came together to stop king Jesus. Imagine them making plans to get rid of him. Oh no! Will they stop him?

God looks down at them from heaven and he laughs: 'Hahahaha!' He laughs at these kings, they are weak and puny. They can't stop Jesus being king. God has made Jesus king. These kings need to watch out. In the end, King Jesus will destroy them all. They need to say sorry to him and accept that he is king, only then will they be safe.

God says that all people on earth are like those kings. All people on earth need to watch out. All people on earth need to come to king Jesus before it's too late.



Read

Pray and read Psalm 2 verse 6.



Look

Look at verse 6... What has God done?



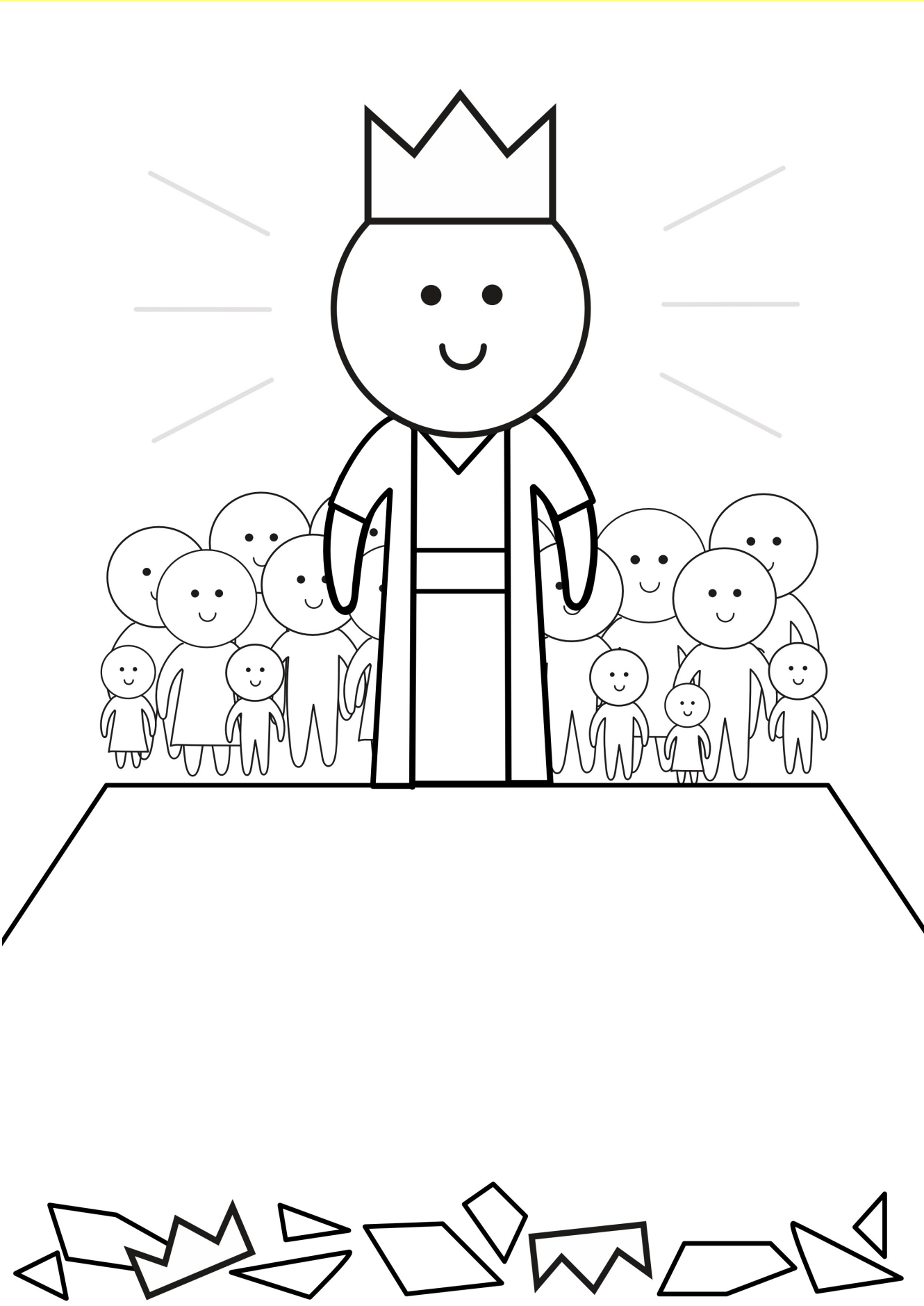
Pray

We **praise** you God for making Jesus king.



Sing

God made Jesus king of everyone and everything,
 God made Jesus king of everyone and everything,
 God made Jesus king of everyone and everything,
 God made Jesus king!



Wow, God made us!

Our story from the Bible should make us say “That’s amazing! Wow God!”

God made the moon and the stars in the sky. The moon and stars are very, very big. Compared to them we are very small. But here’s the amazing thing. Even though we are so much smaller than a star, even though we are so much smaller than the moon, God cares for us. God cares for you. He loves us and he looks after us. “That’s amazing! Wow God!”

God made birds and animals and fish too. Because God made them, they are all special. But there is something else God made that is even more special than birds or animals or fish. Do you know what the most special thing God made is? Us! People. People are more special to God than birds. People are more special to God than animals. People are more special to God than fish. “That’s amazing! Wow God!”

We are so special to God that God made people to be in charge. God made people to be in charge of what he had made. God made people to be the boss of all the birds and animals and fish. “That’s amazing! Wow God!” Compared to the moon and stars we are very small but God still cares for us. Compared to all the animals and birds and fish we are very special. “That’s amazing! Wow God!”



Read

Pray and read Psalm 8 verse 3 and 4.



Look

Look at verse 3... What has God made?



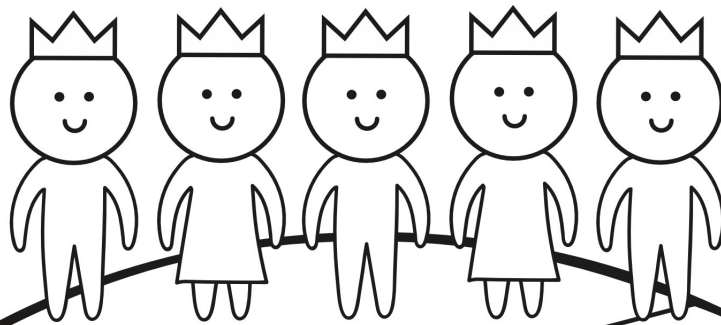
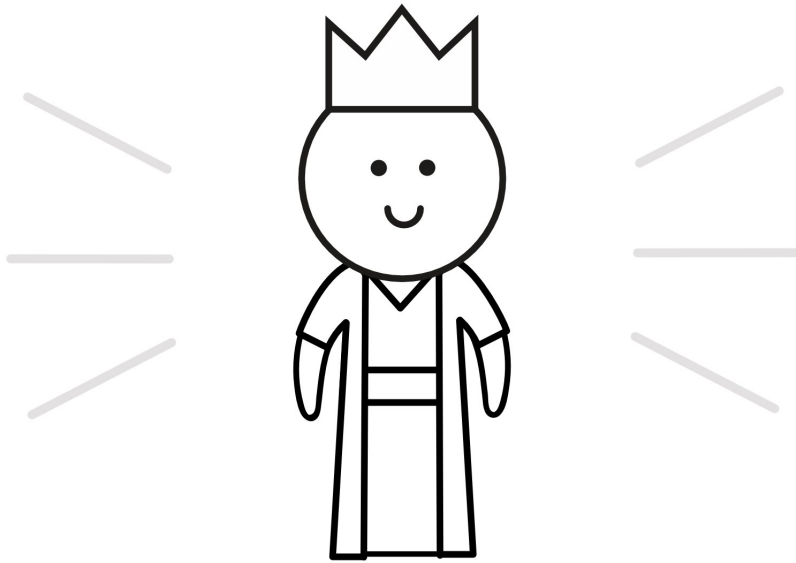
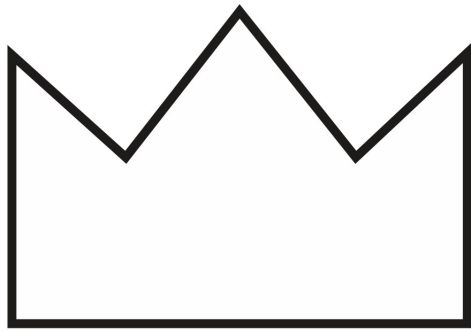
Pray

Wow God! Out of everything you made we are special to you.



Sing

God made you and me we are so special to him,
 God made you and me we are so special to him,
 God made you and me we are so special to him,
 God made you and me!



Jesus, our shepherd, always looks after us

When David was a boy he was a shepherd. A shepherd looks after sheep. Sometimes lions or bears would try to take David's sheep and eat them. But David looked after his sheep. David kept them safe. He got rid of the lions and the bears.

When David was a man he was a king. King David was a bit like his sheep. Like his sheep King David needed to be kept safe from danger. Sometimes David had nasty men chasing him and trying to kill him. David needed a shepherd to look after him and keep him safe. David knew that God was his shepherd. God looked after him and kept him safe. When King David was scared or lonely or needed help, God was with him. God was with David when he was happy and when he was sad. David sang a song about this. David's song began like this: 'The LORD is my Shepherd.'

Just like King David we all need a shepherd too. The Bible tells us that like David we have a shepherd. Jesus is our shepherd. Jesus is the good shepherd who looks after his sheep. Whenever we are scared we have our shepherd with us. Jesus is with us. We can't see Jesus with our eyes but he is here. Jesus is with us when we are happy and when we are sad. Jesus looks after us all the time. King David sang in his song, "The LORD is my shepherd." Jesus says to us, "I am the Good Shepherd".



Read

Pray and read Psalm 23 verse 1 and 4a.



Look

Look at verse 1... Who is my shepherd?



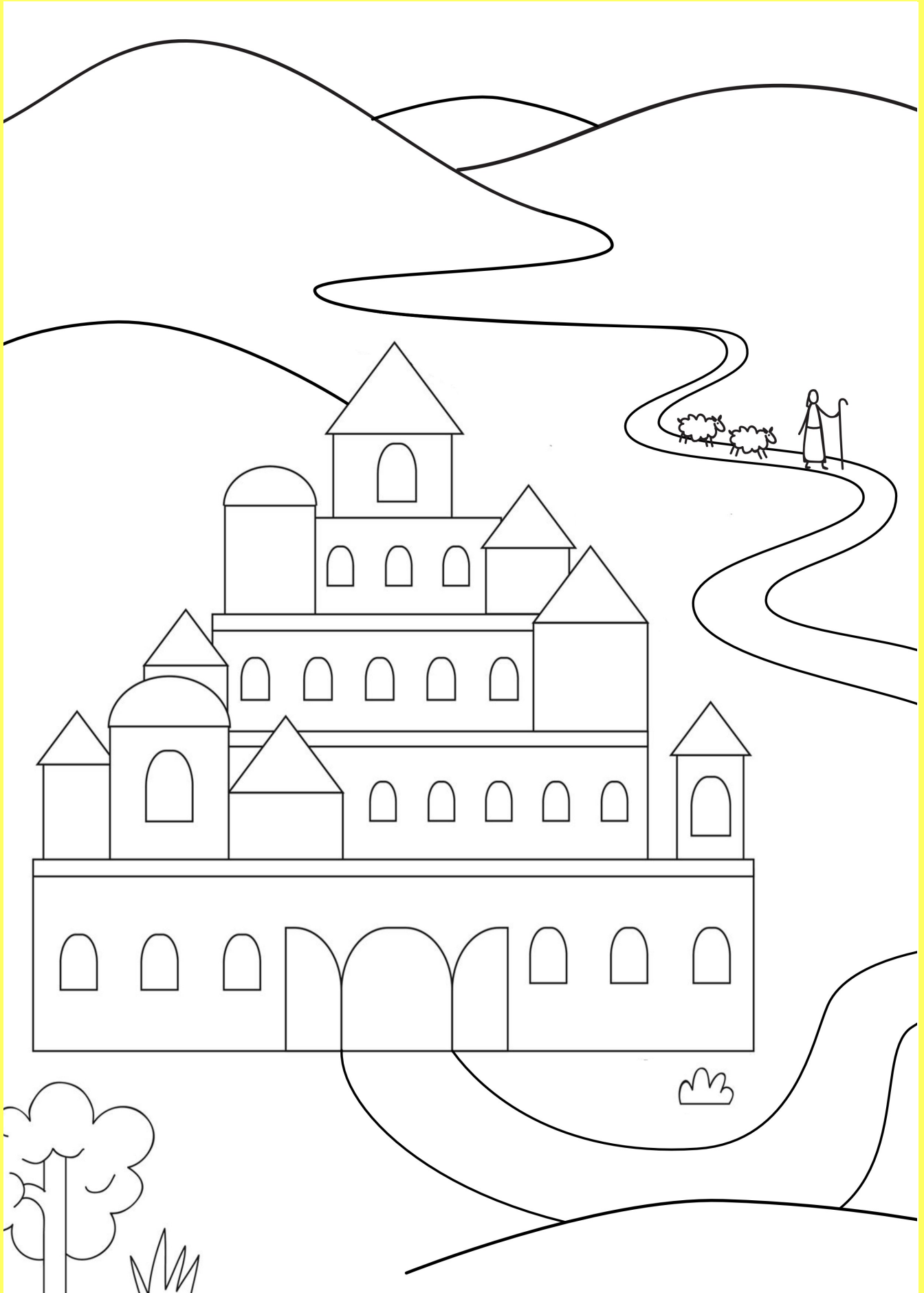
Pray

Let's **thank** God that he looks after us.



Sing

Jesus is our shepherd he will always care for us,
 Jesus is our shepherd he will always care for us,
 Jesus is our shepherd he will always care for us,
 Jesus cares for us!



Our help comes from God

Every year God's people, the Israelites, went on a journey. They walked to Jerusalem where God's temple was. Some of them had to walk a very long way. They had no cars or aeroplanes to help them. No bicycles or scooters to make it easier. Just walking. Walk. Walk. Walk. Sometimes it got scary for them. They could get scared of robbers coming to get them from up in the hills. Or be worried about slipping on the rocks and stones. Or be frightened at night-time when all was dark. But the Israelites didn't need to be scared.

This is what they said, "I lift my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD the maker of heaven and earth." God is big and strong and powerful. God would look after them. They didn't need to be scared of thieves and robbers. They didn't need to worry about slipping over and getting hurt. They didn't need to be frightened of the darkness. God was watching over them and looking after them.

God looks after all of us too. We're not on a journey to Jerusalem. But we are on our way to our home in God's new creation. It's like we're on a journey. But on the way it can be hard. There might be sad things or scary things. There will be things that make it really hard to keep trusting God until we're home with him in the new creation. But, guess what? All the way along the journey God looks after us. God is the maker of heaven and earth. God is strong and powerful. God watches over you. You are safe with him. You can trust him. Whenever you are scared, talk to God, he can help you.



Read

Pray and read Psalm 121 verses 1-2



Look

Look at verse 2. Where does our help come from?



Pray

Let's **thank** God that he always watches over us.



Sing

Our help comes from God and he watches over us,
 Our help comes from God and he watches over us,
 Our help comes from God and he watches over us,
 Our help comes from God!



Praise God who made everything

God has made everyone and everything. Someone wrote a song about all the things that God has made. The first bit of the song is all about the things that God made that are above the earth. God made all the things above us; God made the sky, the big blue sky. God made the sun that we can see in the daytime and he made the moon and all the stars that we can see at night time. God talked about them and they were made, sky, sun, moon, stars, just like that.

The second bit of the song is about the things that God made that are on the earth. God made all the things on the earth; God made humongous great big mountains and the deep valleys. God made all the trees and all the animals. God talked about them and they were made, mountains, trees, animals, just like that.

The last bit of the song is about people. God made all the people in the world. He made you and me, your mums and dads, your brothers and sisters, your friends and teachers. God made everyone. God talked about them and they were made; people, just like that.

God made everyone. God made everything. God made everyone and everything just by speaking. That makes God really amazing, that makes God very special. That should make us want to tell God how amazing and special he is. When we tell God how amazing he is, that is called praising God. We can praise God by singing songs, we can praise God by telling others about him, we can praise God by praying to him.



Read

Pray and read Psalm 148 verse 5.



Look

Look at verse 5... Why does everyone and everything praise the Lord?



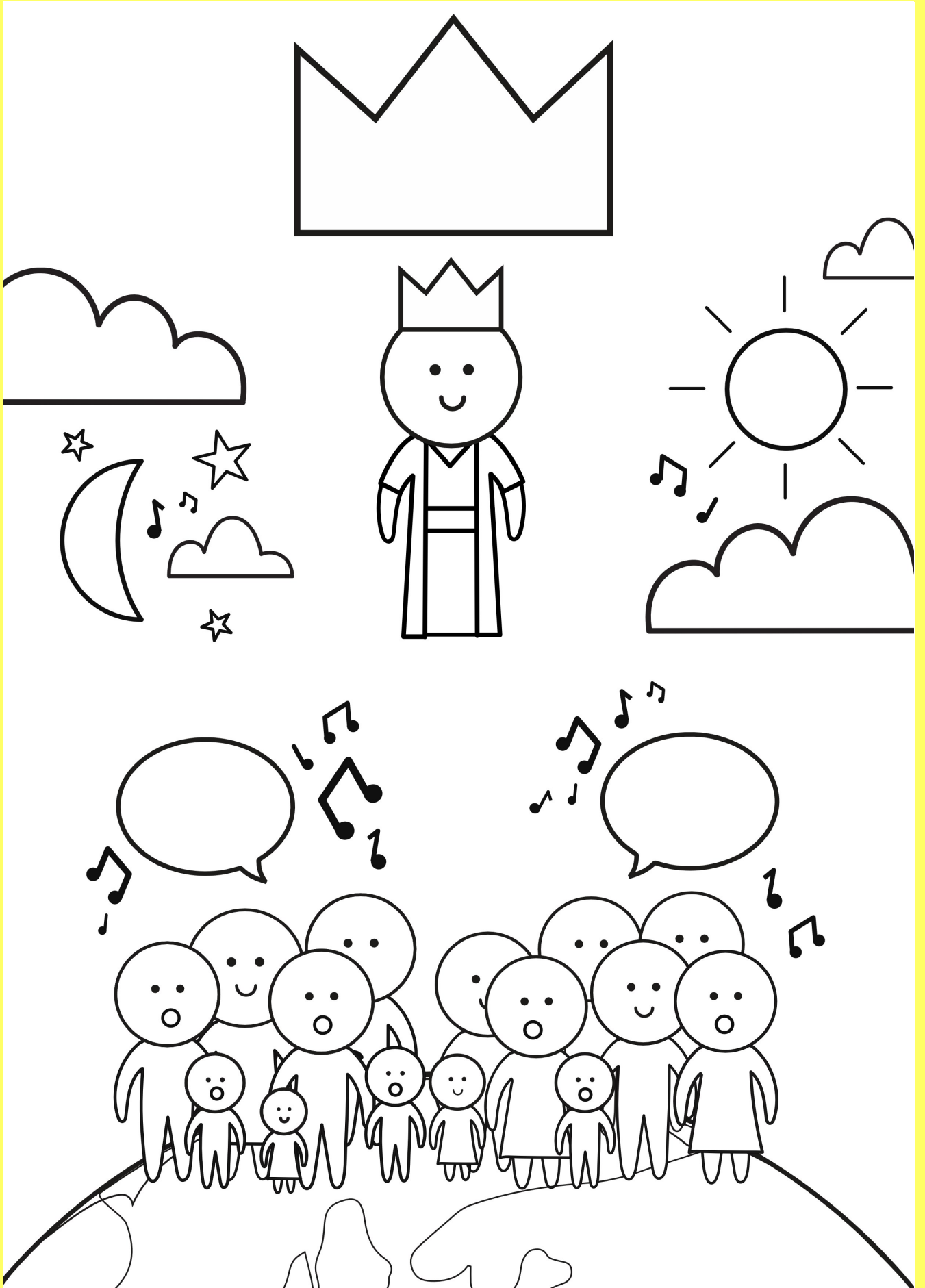
Pray

We **praise** you God that you made everyone and everything.



Sing

Sing and praise the Lord because he made everything,
Sing and praise the Lord because he made everything,
Sing and praise the Lord because he made everything,
Sing and praise the Lord!



Digging in to the rest of the Psalms

We have only touched on 5 of the 150 Psalms. We hope that the ones we have chosen have given you an idea for the book as a whole, some key theological points, and an understanding of some well known and quoted Psalms. Your family may like to take the opportunity to look at some other Psalms! In which case, simple questions like the following may help you have a fruitful time:

- Do we learn anything about the king?
- Does it help us wait for the king?
- Does it help us look ahead to the refuge the king offers.

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