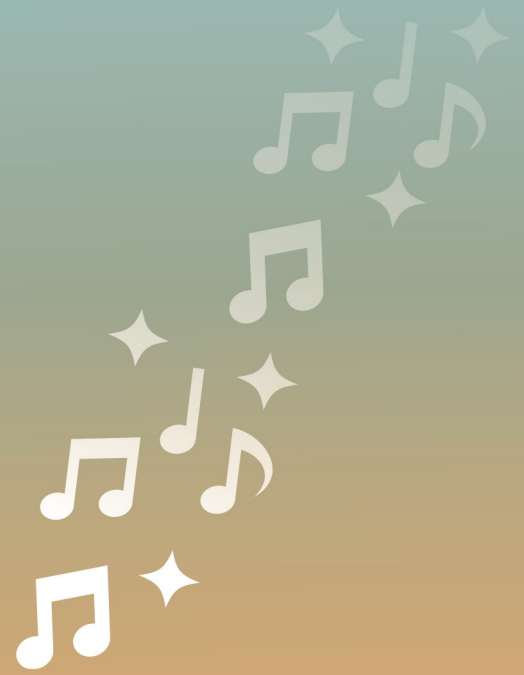




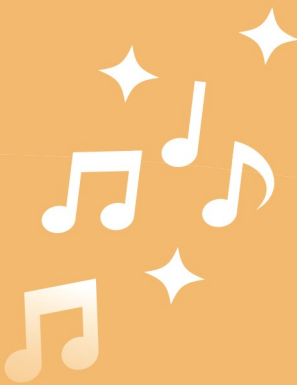
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Bible time booklet | 5-11's

# 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.

We will only touch on 7 of the 150 Psalms. We hope that the ones we have chosen will give 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.

## Memory verse

This is the memory verse we'll be learning as we go through the Psalms:

**“For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.” Psalm 47:7**

## 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 that 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 further think through how they are responding to what they are 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.

Here are some ideas:

- For smaller children, you might choose to read the story recap, think about the first 'look' question and then pray.
- Slightly older children might be able to look at one of the 'think' questions too, and the oldest may manage to cover all the questions.
- If you have older children, who want to go further than the study, you could read the rest of the passage and any other bits we miss out with them and perhaps think together what it adds to our understanding of the big idea.

# The fruitful tree

Story 1: Psalm 1

## Listen to the Psalms and you will live.

In the Bible there is a book called the Psalms. Psalms just means songs. Each Psalm is a song. The book of Psalms is like a playlist. It has lots of songs in it – 150! That's 150 different songs for people to sing. Songs which we can sing along to too.

The first Psalm is about a tree and some chaff. The tree is big and strong and healthy. Its leaves won't wither, it produces lots of fruit, and it doesn't get blown down by the wind. This is because it is planted by streams of water. These streams of water give the tree life. The streams of water make the tree grow big and strong and healthy. The Psalmist says that this is a picture of someone who loves God's word. Someone who listens to and thinks about what God says is like a big strong healthy tree. They have life, and won't be blown away when God judges the world.

But there is another group of people in this Psalm. The other group of people are the wicked. They do not love what God says. They do not listen to God or think about what he has said. The Psalmist says that they are like chaff. Chaff is the dry, flaky skin of a seed. Chaff is not big or strong or healthy. Chaff is blown away with the slightest breeze. People in this group do not have life, and will be blown away when God judges the world.

The Psalmist has put this song first to encourage us to listen to and think about the rest of the songs. He wants us to listen to and think about what God is saying in the book of Psalms. He wants us to become the tree. If we listen, we will live.



**Read**

Pray and read Psalm 1



**Look**

**Look** at verse 2 and 3... What is the person who loves God's word like?

**Look closer...** at verse 4. What is the person who doesn't love God's word like?



**Think**

**Hm...** What happens to trees if they don't get any water?

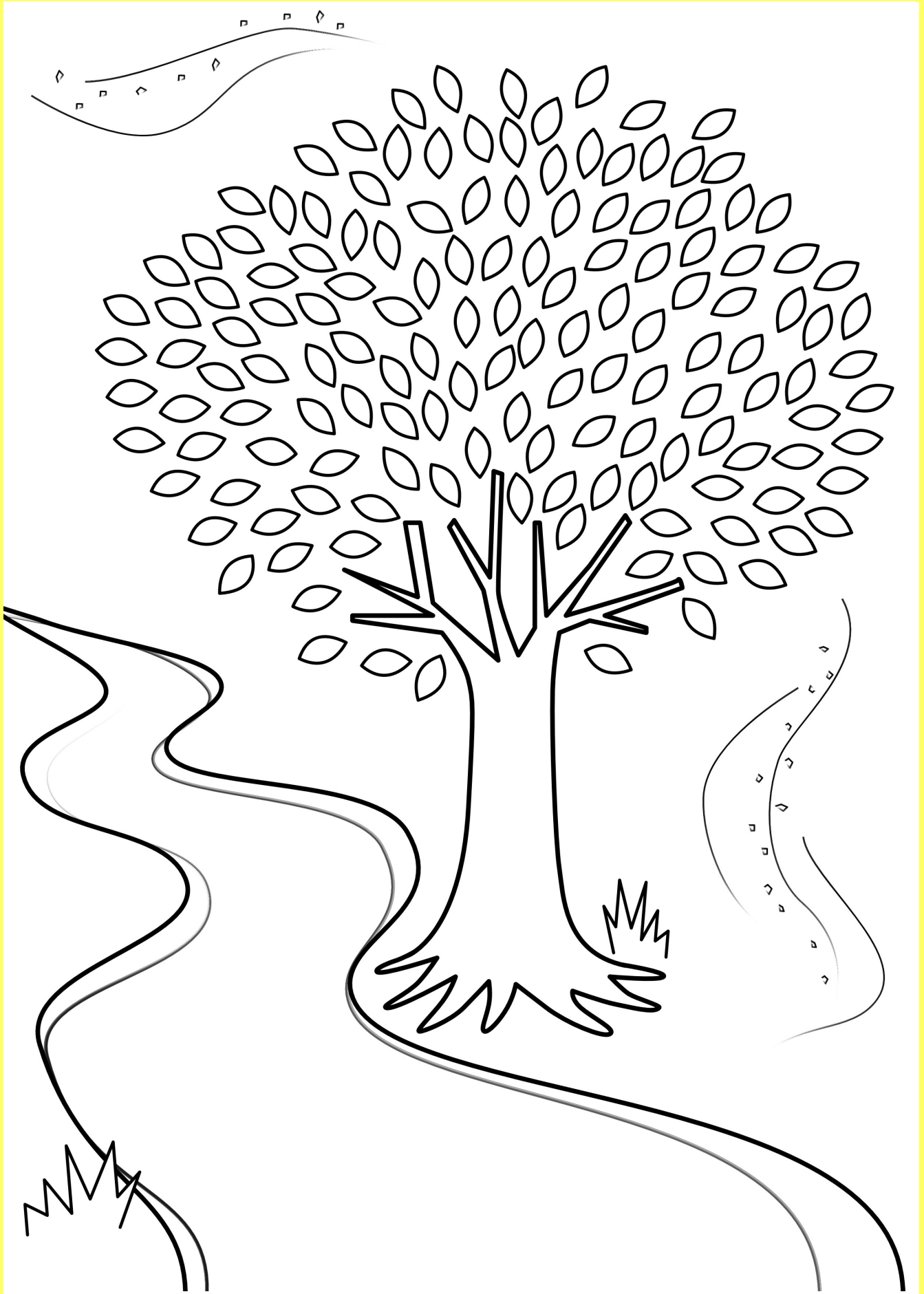
**Hmm...** Why is it better to be the tree and not the chaff?

**Hmmm...** We're looking at Psalms this term, why is Psalm 1 a good place to start?



**Pray**

Let's **ask** God to help us love his word.



# The greatest story ever told (Part 1)

Story 2: Psalm 2:1-6

Although the nations rebel, God has installed his king.

The book of Psalms is like a playlist of songs which we can sing along to. But what is this playlist about? In the second song, Psalm 2, we see that God's playlist is about his king, and what happens to him in the greatest story ever told.

The story begins on earth. Everyone who ever existed, from every part of the planet, raises their fists in rebellion against God. Instead of praising him, all people and their kings have rebelled. This great story is a true story. It's not a fiction book or an imagination game. Everyone on earth who has ever existed since Adam and Eve have rebelled against God.

Now look to heaven. How does God feel about this? He laughs at them: 'pah ha ha!' Then he stops laughing and speaks to them in his anger: 'I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.' In the greatest story ever told the Lord now puts his king on the throne in heaven. His king becomes the ruler of the universe. He has all power and authority, he has great majesty and might. There is a standoff: the kings and peoples of the earth vs the king in heaven. Later on in the Bible we see that this king is Jesus. People did not like him so killed him; but God raised him up and seated him on the throne in heaven. Jesus is God's mighty, majestic, powerful king. In Psalm 2 we learn that God's playlist is about his king.



**Read**

Pray and read Psalm 2 verses 1 to 6



**Look**

**Look** at verse .. 1 and 2. What are the people on the earth doing?

**Look closer...** at verses 4 to 6. What does God do?



**Think**

**Hm...** On a scale of 1 to 10 how mighty do you think King Jesus is?

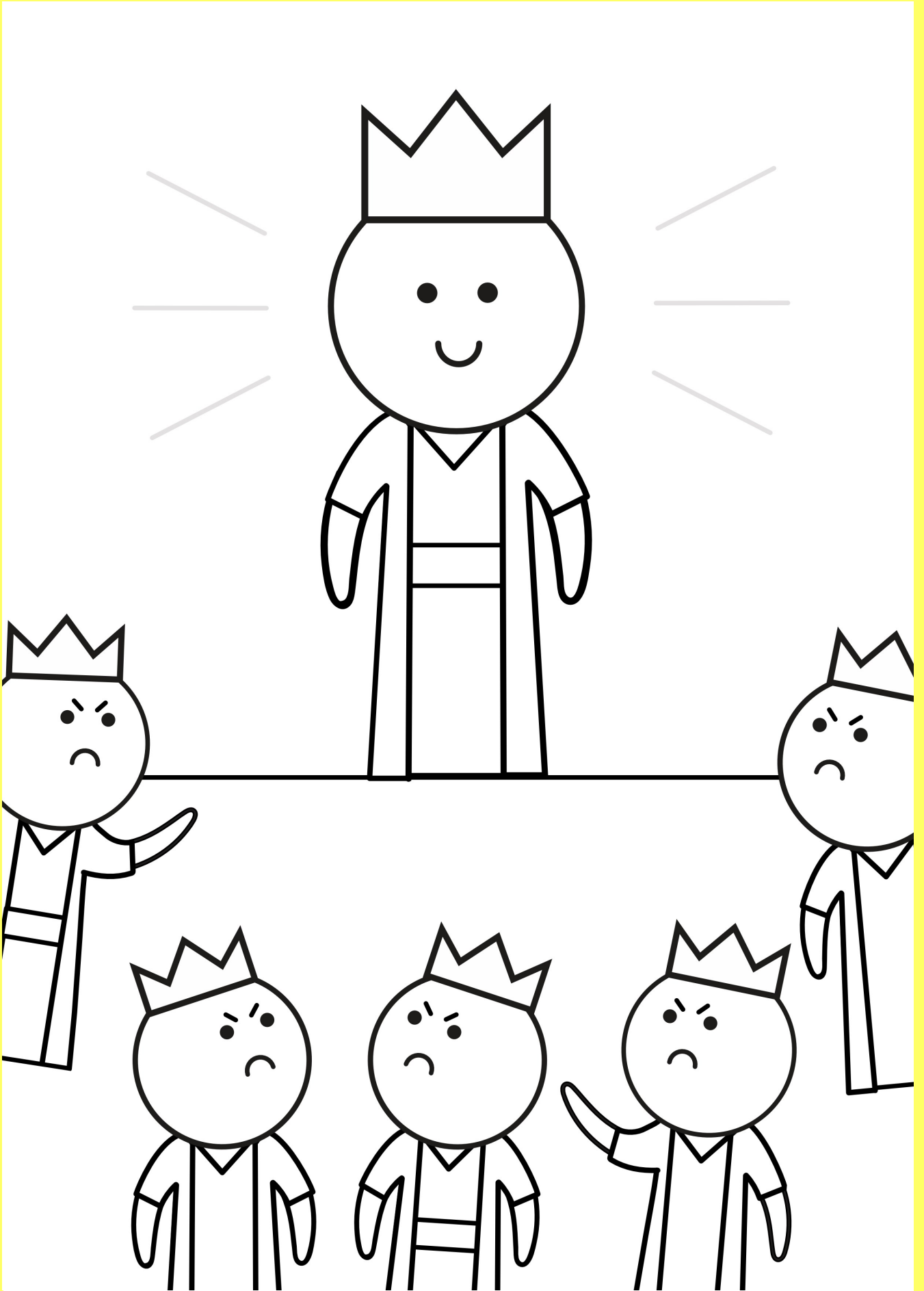
**Hmm...** What would you say to someone who says they don't need to surrender to Jesus?

**Hmmm...** Why is Psalm 2 the second song in God's playlist?



**Pray**

Let's **praise** God that he raised Jesus to be king of the universe.



# The greatest story ever told (Part 2)

Story 3: Psalm 2:6-12

God's king will smash his enemies, take refuge in him.

Last time we heard the beginning of the greatest story ever told. Instead of praising God, everyone on earth was rebelling against him. So God raised his King up and seated him on the throne in heaven. What will happen next?

God's king Jesus is given a present. It's not new socks; it's the entire universe with everyone in it. What will he do with it? Remember how the people on earth treat God: they are rebels, who shake their fists at him and don't want his king to reign. King Jesus will take these rebels and smash them. He will punish them for their rebellion. Remember, this greatest story ever told is a true story. One day, King Jesus, will smash the rebels.

As we wait for that day, what should the rebels do? They have been warned. They should be wise and stop their rebellion. They should stop shaking their fists at God and rather surrender and bow down to the king and serve him and fear him and celebrate his rule. If they do this they will escape destruction. They will be safe from the kings smashing.

This is the end of the greatest story ever told. God's king will one day smash his enemies. But those who come to him for refuge will be safe. As we wait for the king, let's come to him.



**Read**

Pray and read Psalm 2 verse 6 to 12



**Look**

**Look** at verse 9... What will happen to the rebels?

**Look closer...** at verse 10-12. How do rebels find safety?



**Think**

**Hm...** On a scale of 1 to 10 how scary will Jesus' judgment be?

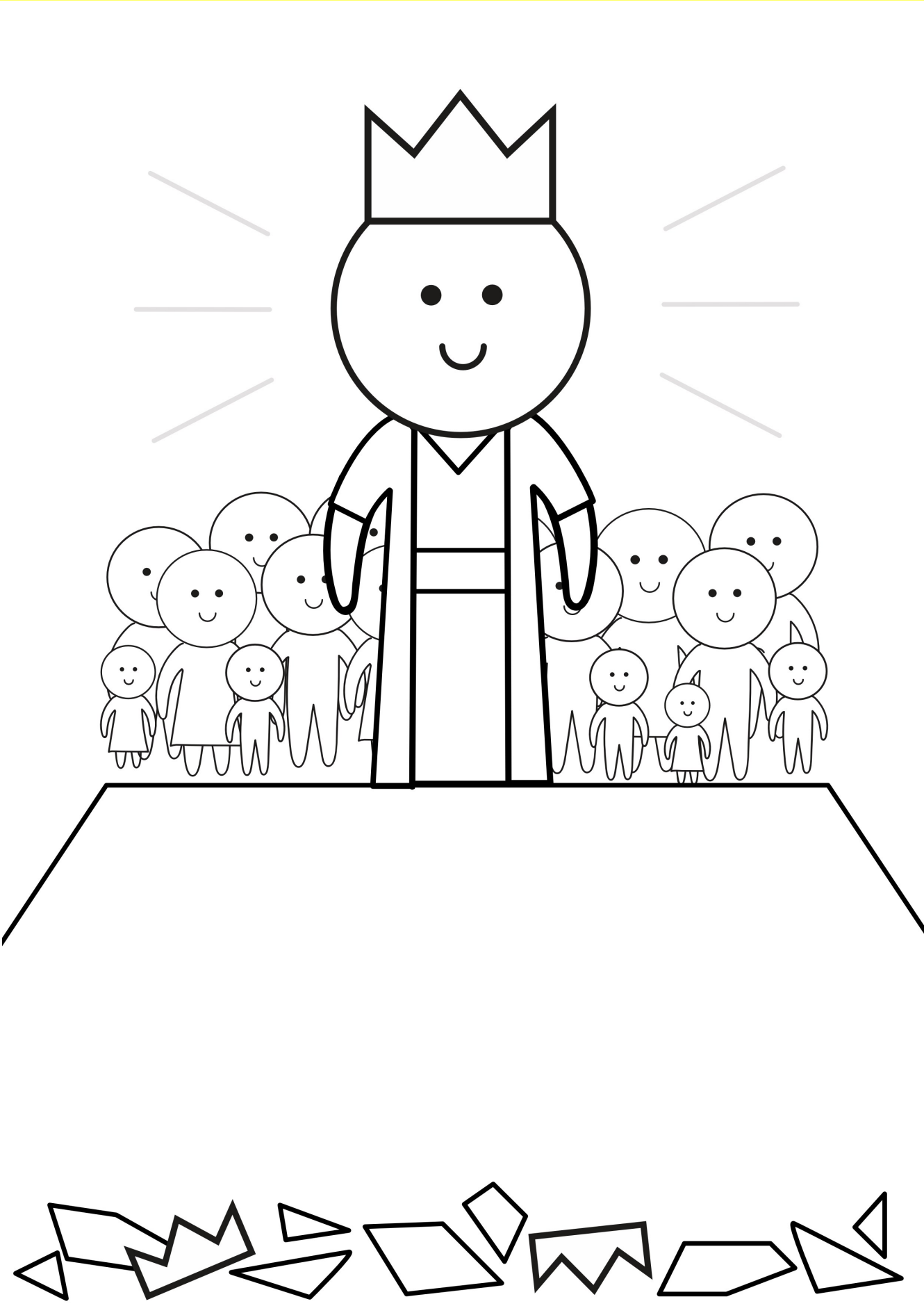
**Hmm...** Do we need to be worried? (Why/why not?)

**Hmmm...** God's playlist is about his king. Why is it a good idea to listen to and sing along with the songs in the Psalms?



**Pray**

Let's **thanks** Jesus that he will keep us safe from his smashing.



# Made to rule

## Wow! God has made people special

Have you ever thought about how small you are? You might think you're pretty big but we are actually very, very small compared to how big the universe is.

In the Psalm we're looking at today King David is thinking about this too. He looks up at the night sky and sees that it's huge. There are billions of stars in space, millions of light-years away. And it was all made by God. The universe is SO big, and David knows that he's very small, which makes him ask a question. David asks God 'If people are so small compared to the rest of creation, why do you care about them?.' Even though we are very small, God cares for the people he has made.

Why does he care about them? God has given mankind a job to do. We are special in the universe because God made us to rule his world. He made you to rule. All this makes David say, 'WOW!!'

But there's a problem. Because of our sin we have messed up our job. Instead of ruling God's world under him, we ignore him and do our own thing.

But, one day God will make a whole new world. In this world King Jesus will rule. He will be in charge of everything. And he will make us rulers with him. We will rule the world with King Jesus forever. It's like we'll all be wearing crowns on our heads. And as we wait for that day to come, we can remind ourselves of these amazing truths from this Psalm.



### Read

Pray and read Psalm 8 verse 3 to 6



### Look

**Look** at verse 4... What question does David ask?

**Look closer...** at verse 5. What job does God give people?



### Think

**Hm...** Why does David ask this question?

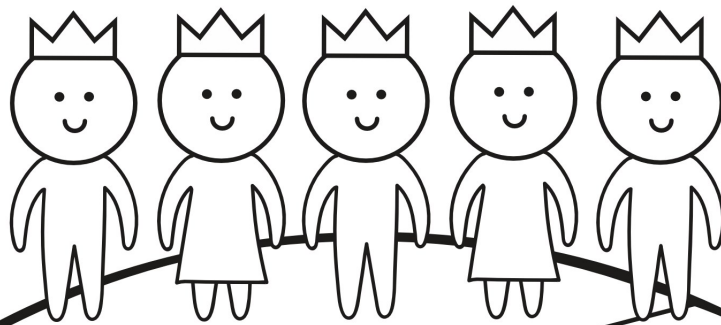
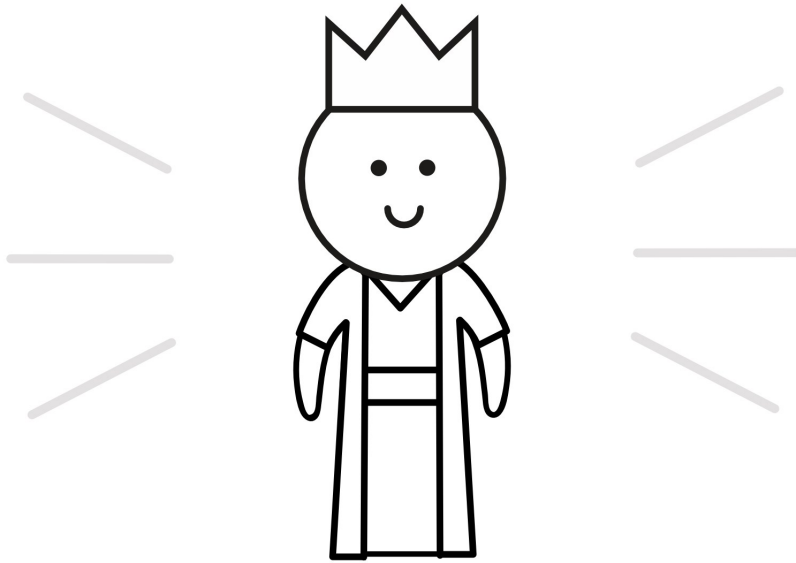
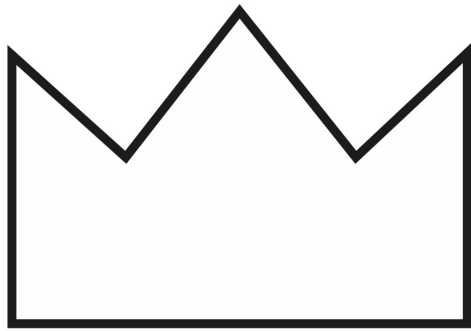
**Hmm...** Why does God care for us?

**Hmmm...** How does it make you feel knowing that you will rule the world?



### Pray

Let's **praise** God using verse 9 of the Psalm. Why don't you read it out loud.



# The suffering king

Story 5: Psalm 22

Expect your life to be a life of suffering like your king.

What would you expect the life of a king to look like? Maybe you'd expect a king to be loved by everyone. Maybe you'd expect the life of a king to be very happy. Our Psalm today is a song which shows us what the life of God's king is like.

The life of God's king is a life of suffering. The king feels abandoned by God. The king feels small and weak. People shout at him and mock him. The king's enemies surround him like a pack of ferocious lions wanting to devour him. The king's life is poured out, it looks like death. God's king suffers. This is not what we expect the life of a king to look like.

King David, who wrote this song lived a life of suffering. One time, the whole nation had turned against him. His son wanted to kill him. He was far away from the temple where God was. He was all on his own. He was very sad. King Jesus used this song to show how he was feeling when he was crucified. Everyone had turned against him. People were shouting at him and mocking him. He felt like God had abandoned him. He was on his own. He was very sad. And then he died. This is what the life of God's king is like. God's kings suffer.

If we follow king Jesus then this is what we should expect our lives to be like. We might feel far from God; other children might shout at us in the playground; people might try to harm us. If we follow king Jesus, we should expect our lives to look like his. But that's not the end of the song. At the end of the song we hear that God listens to the cries of his king. God gathers his people to himself. They will one day eat a great feast and live forever. They will praise him because he has saved them.



**Read**

Pray and read Psalm 22 verses 1-2 and 24-26



**Look**

**Look** at verse 1 ... How does the king feel?

**Look closer...** at verse 24. How does God feel about the king?



**Think**

**Hm...** What should we expect our lives to look like?

**Hmm...** Why should we expect this?

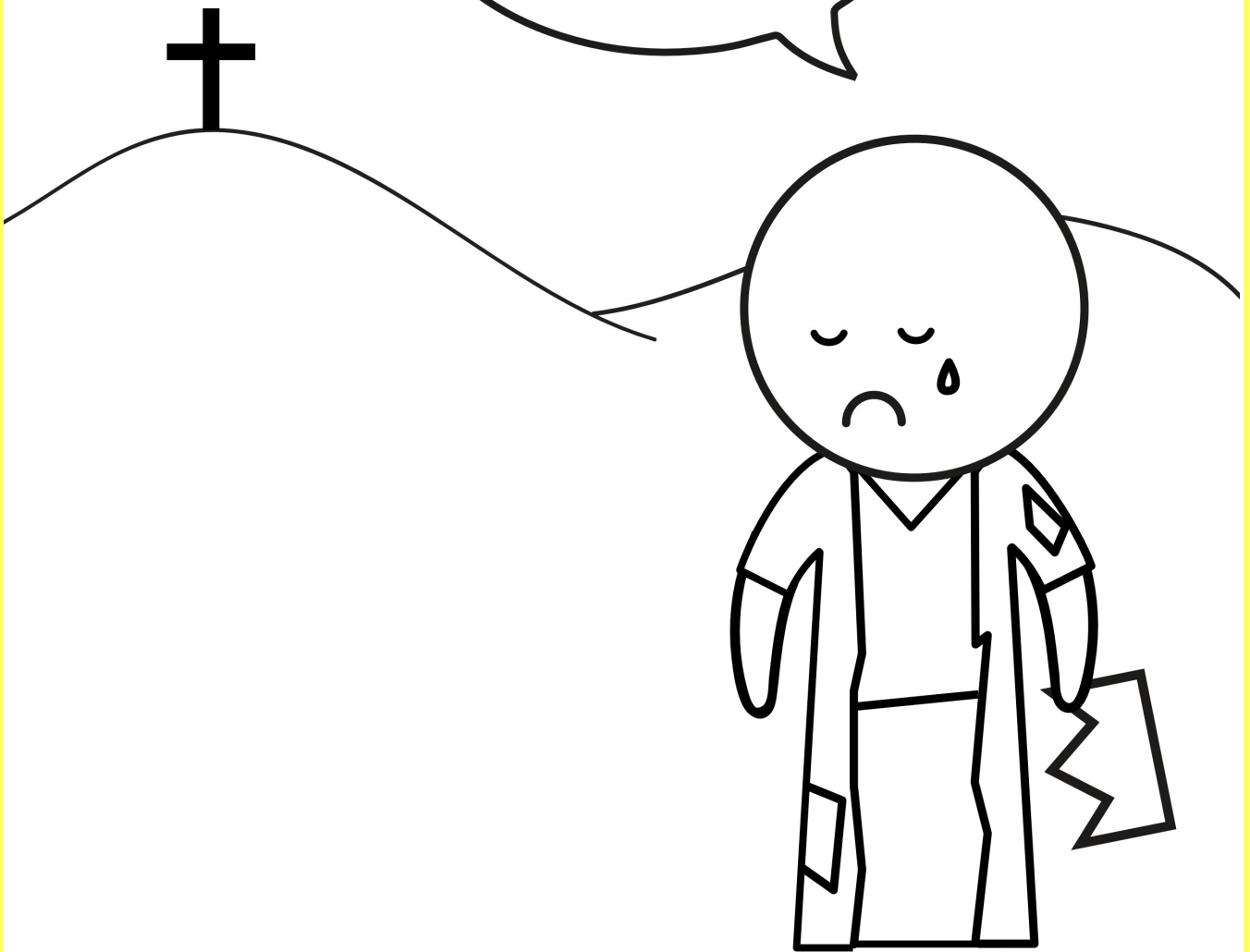
**Hmmm...** When we suffer and cry out, what hope is there?



**Pray**

Let's **ask** the Lord that we would get our expectations right.

**My God, my God,  
why have you  
forsaken me?**



# The shepherd

Story 6: Psalm 23

Know that the Lord is your shepherd.

In Psalm 23 King David uses two pictures. King David talks about a journey and a house.

The journey is a picture of our life on earth now. Living in this world is like walking on a long journey home. Difficult things can happen on our journey through the world, just like it did for David. Enemies, sadness, sickness and sin. They can make it hard to keep trusting God and make the journey home to God's new creation seem much, much harder.

But on the way David has the Lord as his shepherd. And just as a shepherd looks after and cares for their sheep, the Lord gives David all that he needs for the journey. How amazing that David has such a good shepherd with him, looking after and guiding him as he goes on his journey home.

Jesus is our shepherd, who helps us and cares for us on our journey home. Jesus provides all we need. Just like King David was looked after by God, his shepherd, so we can be looked after by Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The house is a picture of our home, the new creation. It's where God's people go once the journey is over. At the end of our journey on earth, we will go to live with God forever. We will eat at his feast. We will be completely safe and secure once and for all. What a wonderful picture. If we trust in Jesus then in the end we will be in God's house forever.



**Read**

Pray and read Psalm 23 verses 1 to 6



**Look**

**Look** at verse 1 ... Who is with David on his journey?

**Look closer...** at verse 6. Where is David going?



**Think**

**Hm...** How does the Lord look after David on his journey home?

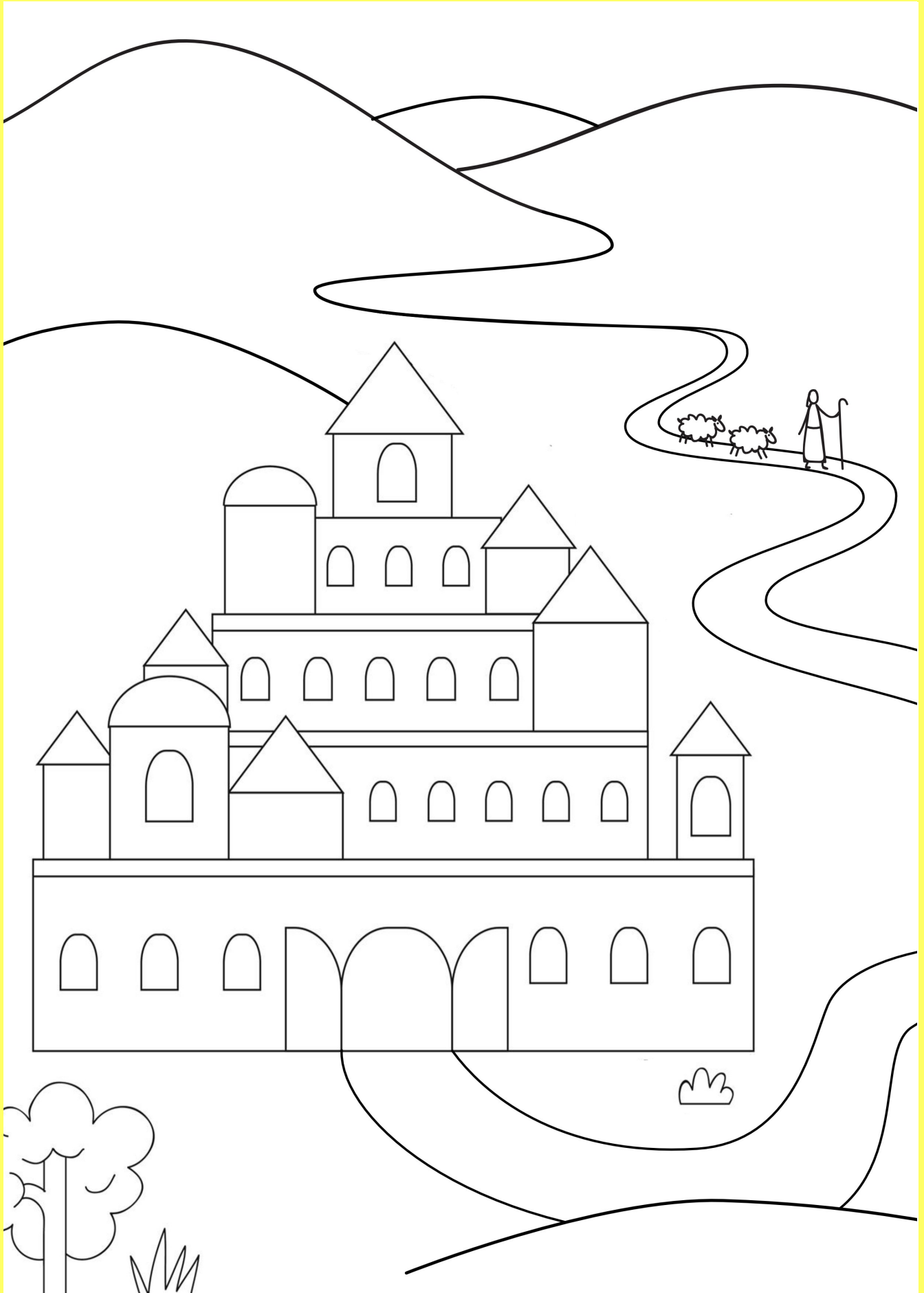
**Hmm...** What things in your life make the journey home hard?

**Hmmm...** What makes you thankful to have Jesus as your good shepherd?



**Pray**

Let's **thank** the Lord that he is our good shepherd.



# The return of the King

Story 7: Psalm 110

Be assured that King Jesus will return.

I wonder if you're waiting for anything: Christmas, a friend to come over and play, a parcel in the post? In the Old Testament, God's people were waiting for God's king. God had promised a king who would smash the rebels, and rescue those who surrendered to him. But the king hadn't come. They had been waiting and waiting and waiting. And so, it started to feel like the king wasn't going to come at all. Would God's promised king really come?

Our Psalm today was written to show God's people that the promised king would come. It tells us of a king greater than King David, who's sovereign rule would go out from Zion, who will make his people be friends with God, and who will smash the enemies of God.

As God's people sung this song, it would have reminded them that God was going to keep his promise. A king will come. He might not have come yet, they were still waiting, but one day he will come. And one day he did come! Four hundred years after this playlist of songs was put together, God's promised king came; it was Jesus. King Jesus died so that we could be friends with God and then he went back to heaven. But before he went, he promised that he would come back again – he would return. He promised that when he came back, he would smash the rebels, and rescue those who surrender to him.

That was 2000 years ago, and he's not yet come back. We've been waiting and waiting and waiting, waiting for our king to return. As we wait for him, we can listen to and think about this song. This is a song that we can sing to remind us that King Jesus will return. It's a song to sing whilst we wait for our king.



**Read**

Pray and read Psalm 110



**Look**

**Look** at verses 5 and 6... What will happen when King Jesus returns?

**Look closer...** at verse 1a. Work out who is who. (ie David, God, and the promised king)



**Think**

**Hm...** Will King Jesus return?

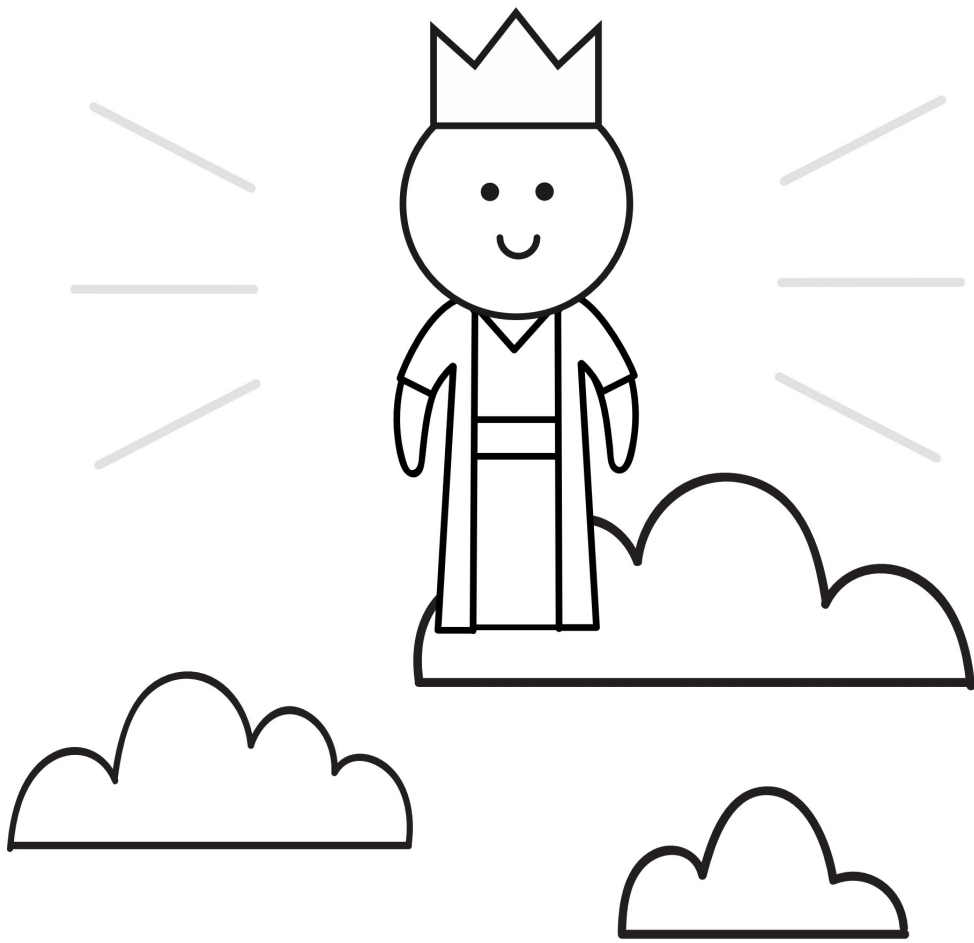
**Hmm...** How does King Jesus' return make you feel?

**Hmmm...** Do you find it easy or hard to wait for King Jesus to return?

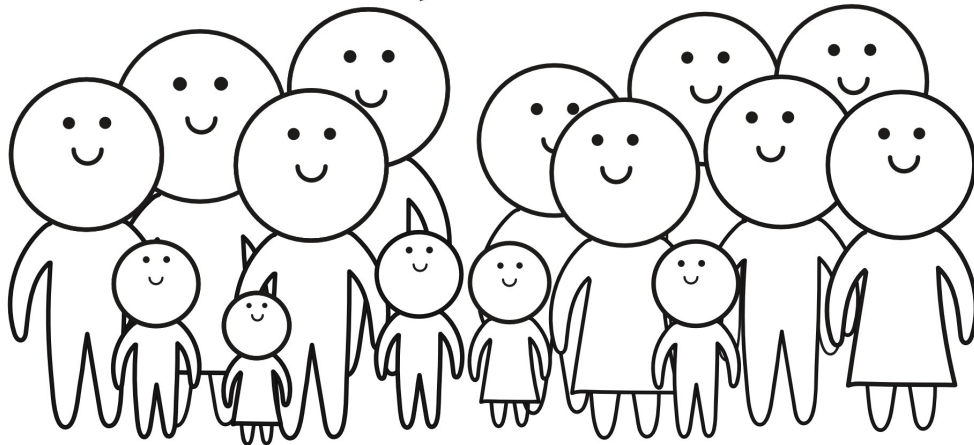


**Pray**

Let's **thank** God that his king will return.



**Our King  
has come!**



# The Concert

Story 8: Psalm 148

Praise the Lord who is worthy of praise.

The book of Psalms is God's playlist of songs to sing whilst we wait for his king. The songs at the end of his playlist gives us a picture of what it will be like when God's king comes. And in the Psalm we're looking at today, we see it'll be like a concert. There are lots of people, loud music, and everyone is singing at the top of their voices. It is the biggest concert that will ever happen. Everyone is praising God.

The song starts by describing how everything above the Earth will praise God: the angels in heaven, the sun and moon, all the stars, the clouds and the sky. Everything above the Earth will praise God because he created them. Wow, praise the Lord! Then the song describes how everything on the Earth will join the concert and praise God: the great sea creatures, the hail and snow and stormy wind, the mountains and hills, the plants and the animals, Kings and princes, young and old, men and women. Everything on the Earth will praise God because he is greater than them. Wow, praise the Lord! Then the song describes how God's people will join the concert and praise him. They will praise him because he has raised up a king who is strong, who keeps his people safe, and saves them. Wow, praise the Lord!

This Psalm is a picture of the future. When king Jesus comes again, everyone and everything will praise God. It will be the biggest concert ever. But as we wait, we can listen to this song to remind us of that future concert, and sing it now, like we'll sing praises in the future.



**Read**

Pray and read Psalm 148



**Look**

**Look** at verses 1 to 14 ... Count how many times things are told to praise God?

**Look closer...** at verses 5, 13 and 14. Why will everything above the Earth, on the Earth, and God's people praise God?



**Think**

**Hm...** Why does this Psalm come at the end of God's playlist?

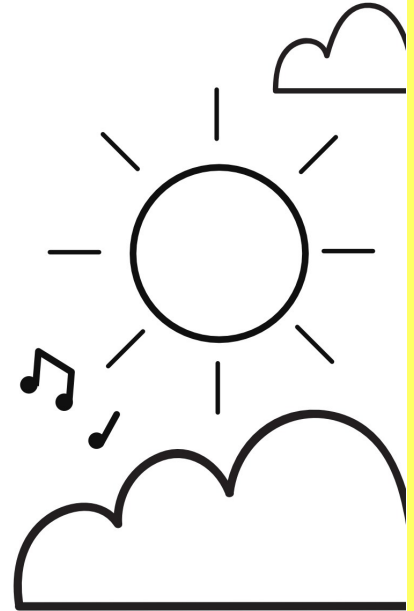
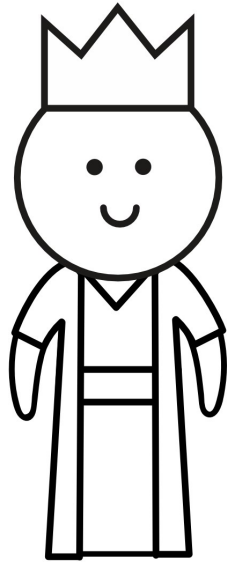
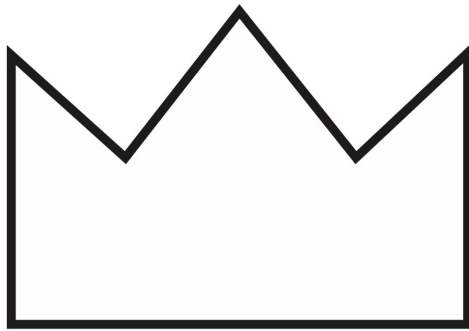
**Hmm...** How will listening to this song help us as we wait for God's king?

**Hmmm...** Do you want to praise God because of king Jesus?



**Pray**

Let's **praise** God for raising up a king who will save us.



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