

Sunday 12th November 2023

Remembrance Sunday

Time for Peace

Welcome

What is your most treasured memory?

or

What is your funniest memory?

or

What is your most embarrassing memory?

Word

Read Psalm 111

Psalm 111 is an alphabetic acrostic psalm, in which each line begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet (which is lost in the English translation), there are 22 lines. After an introductory statement praising God (v. 1), it has two main sections. The first section focuses on God's works and His character (v. 2–6). The second section focuses on God's covenants and commands (v. 7–9). The final verse of the psalm combines these concerns into a subtle call for obedience and loyalty to God

Time for remembering...

1. Does it help to remember good things that have happened in the past? In what ways does it help you?
2. Out of God's great many works, which are most memorable or meaningful to you and why?

Time for appreciating...

3. How can we show our appreciation to God for what he has done for us? (think beyond just praising God)
4. When do you feel like praising God? When do you not feel like praising God?
5. The writer is praising God but who is listening? (verse 1)
6. What do you think are the benefits of praising God in the company of others?

7. What things prevent us from praising God publicly? Do we sometimes feel that we can't praise God in public as freely as we would like, why? Is there anything we can do to feel more 'free' to praise?
8. List the things the writer is praising God about (v2-9).
9. Would you add anything to this list?
10. Verse 2 reminds us of a fundamental principle: Delight leads to study. When we love something or someone, we want to know everything about them. Is this the same true with our love of God, do we want to know more about him and his works because we love him? What things help us to get to know God and his works better?
11. Who does God bless? (v5)
12. What does it mean to 'fear the Lord'? (v5 & 10) How can you tell when a person fears God? What should motivate us to fear God?
13. How does fearing the Lord relate to wisdom? (v10) (Also take a look at Prov. 1:7 & Job 28:28)

Time for hoping...

14. What hope for the future does verses 7-10 give us?
15. What hopes do you have for the future?
16. Is there anything you can do to help these hopes become a reality?

Time for peace...

17. Think of as many words as possible that we associate with peace or peacemaking – maybe write them down so everyone can see.
18. Peace can mean many different things – you could use the following categories:
 - Inner peace
 - Peace in our community
 - Peace in the world

Take each of the words you just listed in number 17 and decide which of these 3 categories it belongs to – there are no right or wrong answers – some will fit in more than one.

19. What can we do as individuals to bring about more peace in the world?

Read Romans 12:9-21, James 3:13-18, Matthew 5: 1-12.

20. What kind of peace (inner, community or world) does each of these passages relate to?

21. As Christians, what does each passage suggest we need to do to be peacemakers?

Optional Extra

How much do you agree/disagree with these statements? If you disagree with other members of your group please keep it peaceful!!

- Peace is the absence of war
- Conflict always leads to violence
- There can be no peace without justice
- Peace starts with ourselves

Worship & Witness

- Spend some time praying for those parts of the world that are experiencing conflict right now
- Have a go at writing an acrostic praise poem like Psalm 111 – either using the letters of the word PEACE or if you're more ambitious, the whole alphabet. For each letter think of something to praise God for. Use this as you pray together. If you don't have time to do this in your group, why not have a go at home on your own.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

(John 14:27)

An Acrostic Prayer:

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