



THIS IS THE Day!

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Talk about the significance of the Hallel psalms. See notes below.
2. The phrase, “His love endures forever” is used several times here and in other Psalms. Go around and share what it would look like for each of you, if you fully believed that God’s “love” endures forever.
3. In verses 21-23 (see below), David is possibly making reference to his own journey (chased by Saul, eventually takes the throne), but he definitely is pointing to Jesus. Talk about how these verses connect to Jesus. (Acts 4:8-12; Acts 3:13)

Hallel ~ Praise, the name given to the group of Psalms 113-118, which are preeminently psalms of praise. It is called "The Egyptian Hallel," because it was chanted in the temple while the Passover lambs were being slain. It was chanted also on other festival occasions, as at Pentecost, the feast of Tabernacles, and the feast of Dedication. The Levites, standing before the altar, chanted it verse by verse, the people responded by repeating the verses or by intoned hallelujahs. It was also chanted in private families at the feast of Passover. This was probably the hymn which our Savior and his disciples sung at the conclusion of the Passover supper kept by them in the upper room at Jerusalem. *(From biblehub.com)*

21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. 22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; 23 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. (P.118)

ACTIVITY:

Read Psalm 118 as a family

Give Thanks Memory Bracelets: *(Supplies: two small cords/yarn long enough to make a bracelet for each person)*. Ask the family to think of times God has shown Himself faithful to them, both tangible and intangible blessings for which they are thankful. They will be tying a knot for each remembrance of God’s faithfulness. Begin with your bracelet. Have someone help you by holding the ends of two cords. You will hold the other two ends. Explain ways that God has been faithful in your life (for example, “He has provided me with a wonderful family, a good job, helped me in a difficult time, etc.”). Tie a knot for each thing you are thankful for (Optional – place a colorful bead in each knot to make the bracelet more decorative). Leave space between each knot. After sharing four or five things, tie the bracelet around your wrist. Have the family split into pairs. Give each one their cords and have them take turns with their partner helping to tie the knots and sharing with each other how God has been faithful in their lives.

REJOICE: *Reread Psalm 118:24* This verse gives us hope that we can find joy in whatever day God has made, but it’s our choice to be glad. This can be very hard, but God wants us to find our joy in Him. If Jesus is our greatest treasure then we can find good reasons to smile even on sad days.

Ask your children to respond to each of the following statements. If the person is choosing to rejoice then the children should all make a happy face. If the person in the example is not choosing to rejoice they should make a sad face. For the negative example below, ask for your child to offer a better solution.

- *Your family goes out to lunch after church, but it’s not your favorite place. You decide to rejoice and have a good attitude. After all, God is providing food and time for your family to all be together. HAPPY FACE*
- *It game day for soccer, but it rains too much and the game is cancelled. You get really angry and refuse to come out of your room. You even yelled at your mom because you were so grouchy. SAD FACE*