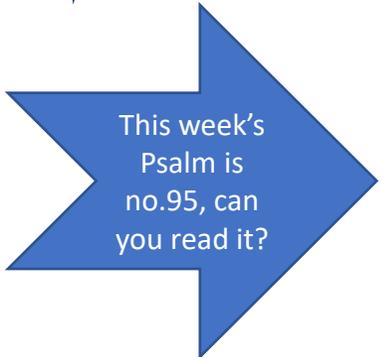




We're changing things round this week, let's start with the craft!



Can you find the items needed to make a musical instrument?
A tissue box banjo?
A glass jar xylophone?
A rice percussion shaker?
A saucepan and wooden spoon drum set?



For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.
Psalm 95:3



Find two noisy songs on the CD that you have really enjoyed, play them again, sing along, play your new instrument, verse 1 of psalm 95 tells us to sing for joy to the Lord!

If you look at the next sheet you'll find Psalm 95 in the middle of it.

In the four shapes are other bible verses, can you get an adult to help you to look these up and read them?

When you read each of these other verses, draw a line from the shape to the place in Psalm 95 where it says the same thing.

These extra verses are all from the old testament, it's quite common for writers in the bible to refer to verses in older parts of the bible.

This psalm is showing us two things, how we should worship and why we should worship. The extra verses you've just read have shown us where psalm 95 tells us why we should worship.

In verse 1 can you find two words that tell us how to worship God? Can you find two more in verse 6?

Hopefully you found the words "sing" and "shout" in verse 1 and the words "bow" and "kneel" in verse 6. These are examples of how to worship.

It's important to remember that God provides for all of our needs (much like psalm 23 taught us last week), and so sometimes our worship can be loud and crazy because we just want to say thank you so much. At other times it is important for us to be quiet, to bow or to kneel, because the way we want to thank God needs to be very different.



Choose a quieter song from the CD and use it to say thank you to God for something special that has happened recently



Father God, thank you that you have done so many different things for us that worshipping you can be so much fun but also very quiet and still. Help us to know you be very close to us when we choose to worship you so that we know what your presence feels like when we need you every day. Amen



Can you remember verse 3 and tell someone what it is before you go to bed tonight?



2 Samuel
22:32



Psalm
23:1,2

Psalm 95

- ¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- ² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
- ³ For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
- ⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
- ⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.
Today, if only you would hear his voice,
- ⁸ “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,^[a]
as you did that day at Massah^[b] in the wilderness,
- ⁹ where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did.
- ¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with that generation;
I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they have not known my ways.’
- ¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger,
‘They shall never enter my rest.’”



Deuteronomy
10:17



Ezekiel
36:26

Are you getting prepared?

ON YOUR MARKS...
GET SET... GO!



Last week we set you the challenge of reading a bunch of psalms and looking at the themes they had in them. How did you get on? I hope that you worked through them during the week, did you do one a day? We'll come back to the challenge in a moment, but first let's briefly look at Psalm 95, this is the one that the whole church is reading today...

Start by reading Psalm 95 through a couple of times, don't worry, it's not too long.

What do you notice about it? Does it feel like it's in two parts? Have a read of the middle section of the sheet prepared for the younger children, this gives some thoughts about the first half of the psalm.

But what about the second part? There's a clue in verse 8 where the writer refers to Meribah and Massah, look up Exodus 17:1-7, it's near the front of the bible. The Israelites were obviously in a bit of a strop with Moses and God, so much so that it lived in the memory of the writer of Psalm 95, perhaps he was there or perhaps it was one of those stories handed down over the years?

But, through reminding us of this story, what has the writer linked to worship?

Verses 8 and 11 refer to ways of "being", our hearts should be open to God (v8) and we can rest well with God (v11).

Next time you sing a worship song have a think about what the words mean, what are they encouraging you to do? Be open? Rest? Something else?



In preparation for writing your own psalm next week here's a few ideas to think about as you read more psalms over the next few days, have a read of the 2 psalms mentioned and then see if you can spot the same styles in other psalms.

It doesn't have to rhyme, but rhythm is good

Parallelism, say one thing, then say it again slightly differently, see various verses in Psalm 139

Repetition, or near repetition, see Psalm 150 – every line starts with the same word!

Keep sentences short, avoid using adjectives and adverbs

Next week we'll give you a couple of examples of psalms that young people have written to help you get started

Verses 3, 5, 7, 10 are all examples
Can you find any others in this psalm?

Remember the beatitudes? (Matthew ch5)
They all started with the words "Blessed be..."
and in the middle had the words "for they..."

Most verses in the psalms are two short statements separated by a comma, it doesn't need to be complicated or fancy language, in fact the simpler the better!

Psst!

If your parents have established a "school" routine with you why not ask them to fit in a "psalm of the day" slot so that you can have a break from all the academic stuff?