

## Children and family talk for 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

Hello everyone, I'm so glad you can join me to explore more of the bible and to praise God together. Our bible reading today is from **Psalm 84** which was written as a song, and you can find songs with these words in that we sometimes sing in church, but today I'm just going to read it, this version is from the Message:

<sup>1-2</sup> What a beautiful home, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies!

I've always longed to live in a place like this,  
Always dreamed of a room in your house,  
where I could sing for joy to God-alive!

<sup>3-4</sup> Birds find nooks and crannies in your house,  
sparrows and swallows make nests there.

They lay their eggs and raise their young,  
singing their songs in the place where we worship.

GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies! King! God!

How blessed they are to live and sing there!

<sup>5-7</sup> And how blessed all those in whom you live,  
whose lives become roads you travel;

They wind through lonesome valleys, come upon brooks,  
discover cool springs and pools brimming with rain!

God-travelled, these roads curve up the mountain, and  
at the last turn—Zion! God in full view!

Let's talk about our bible verses:

As I mentioned before, this Psalm was written as a song and it says it should be accompanied by the playing of a stringed instrument. I expect it was written by David, who was King, but at one time used to be a shepherd boy who played a harp for King Saul – you can find this story in 1 Samuel chapter 16 in the Old Testament.

I wonder what you think of these verses?

When I first read them, I thought how beautiful it is to describe God's home in this way – a place where you can sing for joy to God, and where even birds are welcome, and can come and make their nests and sing their little hearts out!

Sometimes we think of God's home as the church building, but this isn't necessarily true. I believe God is in everything beautiful, like a flowing stream, or bird song, or when you love someone. The verses talk about God living in us – and how blessed we are when God is living in and travelling through life with

us. Also, they describe how we can travel along and then suddenly turn a corner and there before us is Zion – which means the place where God lives. Have you ever done that? Maybe walked down a street, and then turned a corner to find something unexpected and wonderful?

Perhaps next time you experience something, you could look and see if you can find God there, whether its in a new friendship, or an old one, a piece of art, or something in nature like a spider's web?

Let's talk to God now:

Wonderful and surprising God,

We thank you for the season of Autumn, for all the beauty of the trees as the leaves change colour,

help us to find you there, Lord,

We thank you for the beauty of friends and making new friends,

Help us to find you there Lord,

We thank you for squirrels and foxes, for birds and other animals,

Help us to find you there too, Lord.

And we thank you for being everywhere with us Lord, help us to spread your kingdom so that others too can find the wonder of you.

Amen.

Now let's say the grace together...

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands bringing thumbs together on the Amen)