

# Family Devotional

From July 23, 2017

**Worship Dance Party:** Put on your favorite upbeat Christian music and have a dance party for as long as your family is having fun! If you need some ideas for music look up Rend Collective, Toby Mac, Brit Nicole, or Lecrea.

**Read:** Psalm 98

**Reflect:** We were just dancing to some pretty joyful music and this psalm is telling us to sing a new song to the Lord and tell of all the marvelous things he has done, and is doing around us! Why do you think music is a good way to express ourselves to the Lord?

Psalms were originally written as songs design to be sung, and put to music. We connect with music deeply. Often the tones and beats are able to put into sound what we find difficult to put into spoken words. Let's read the Psalm again, try to see how many instruments it lists.

According to verse 7-9 who should sing joyfully to the Lord?

Have you ever noticed it is easier to remember something if you can sing a song to it? Do you know any songs like this? Maybe you've learned the books of the Bible, a memory verse, state names, or your ABCs this way! There is something about the flow of a song that helps keep the information fresh in our mind even years later!

Have you ever gotten a song stuck in your head? Maybe you find yourself singing it as you play, or ride in the car. Do you ever wonder where it came from?

All of these reasons are why it is important to sing songs about the Lord's greatness. It plants this truth deep in our hearts, reminding us of his faithfulness. Those reminders come flowing to mind when we need them most!

Just as Psalm 98 says the Lord *has* done marvelous things, but says we can always write a *new* song because He is constantly working in our world!

**Challenge:** Write your own song to God! It doesn't have to be long or complicated just make it joyful. You could pick a tune everyone knows and change the words or come up with your own tune. You might even think about making some musical instruments to play as your sing your song. Pots, pans, rice, beans, bottles, and cardboard boxes are all great things to use! Air instruments are always great too!

**Remember:** Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Psalm 98:4,6 this week.

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth...shout for joy before the Lord, the King.*

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

**Respond:** "Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of music, and how it helps us connect with you! Help us to sing about your faithfulness not only with our voices, but with our actions and attitude as well.....Amen!"