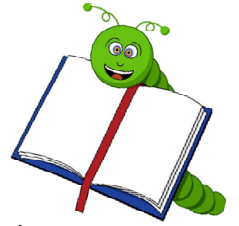


Sunday 30th August

Story Psalms



Everybody loves a story. Since earliest times, people have gathered together to share stories and often these stories concerned what had happened to themselves, their families or their groups.

These stories become the 'history' of a family, a people or a nation. The stories may include times of great joy and celebration, times of anxiety and hardship, times when amusing things happened and times when people were afraid.



- ❖ What do you know about your own story?
- ❖ Have you heard any stories about when you were a baby?
- ❖ Can you remember anything about the day you started nursery or school?
- ❖ Has anyone in your family told you stories about when your parents or grandparents were children?
- ❖ Maybe you have a family tree recording names and birthdays of family members or you have some other clever way of remembering those with 'great' before their name.

I wonder if sharing stories of happy, sad or exciting times helps you to feel part of your family? Are other stories important to you? What about Bible stories? You could look for one now that is special for you.

Some Psalms particularly help the Jewish people to remember their past history and relationship with God. They recount what has happened and how God helped them.

I wonder why the writer thinks it is important to go back so far into the past and remember what happened? Read the section of Psalm 136 below remembering that the word **Israel** is another way of describing **the Jewish people** and that **He** refers to **God**

See if you can work out what story in the Old Testament the psalmist is reminding people of.

Psalm 136 verses 11- 14:

He rescued Israel from Egypt,

God's love never fails.

God used his great strength
and his powerful arm.

God's love never fails.

He split the Red Sea apart.

God's love never fails.

The Lord brought Israel safely
through the sea.

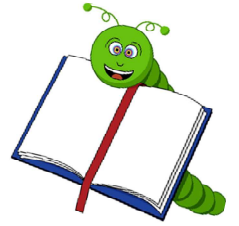
God's love never fails. CEV

Have you noticed that after each verse sentence there is a repeated sentence? **God's love never fails**

It is like a little chorus that appears at the end of each verse of the psalm and there are 26 of them in total.

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I wonder why the writer does this ? Maybe it is important to remember that in good and also fearful times God is with us and that praise and thankfulness can always be there in words and music.



After all, in the language of Hebrew, which the psalms were originally written in, the Hebrew word for psalms is Tehillim and means 'praises '
It looks like this תהלים

Then when the Old Testament containing the Book of Psalms, was translated into Greek, the Greek word used for psalms was psalmoi which means 'songs accompanied by music '

It looks like this ψαλμοί.

Why not take a look



Sometimes diaries are a useful way of noting something down to record events and what you feel about your day. The Book Trust has produced a clip about a really interesting way that you might like to record what happens in your life using a picture diary made in late March this year. See what you think. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=B6CPxOZWlGQ>

You could pick a couple of days this coming week and try recording what happened using ideas from the clip.

Prayer

Dear God
Thank you for our families and all the stories that we can share with them. May
God's love that surrounds us be intertwined in our stories and lives.

Amen