

Prayer - Psalm 119:137-144 Year C - Pentecost 24 Oct 30, 2016



What this is: Prayer interaction based on Psalm 119



Where it's used: In any intergenerational gathering, but specifically with Lectionary based gatherings



Time: 5-7 minutes



Bible focus/theme: Psalm 119:137-144



What's needed: Multiple copies of each line of the psalm printed on a small tag (about the size of a key tag) and ties to a piece of string. Pin these to a cork board display. Full text displayed on screen or print copies for everyone.

Our psalm today is mostly full of reminders that God's ways are good, right, and just ways.

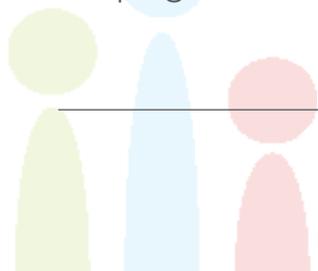
There are two little bits in the middle of these great reminders – about not forgetting.

I wonder what you do to remember things?

Talk to the people around you and share what it is that you do to remember things that are important not to forget. Perhaps you leave yourself notes, put reminders in your phone, or the old fashioned tie a piece of string around your finger! Whatever it is you do – tell the people around you.

Leave a couple of minutes for this. Roam around the conversations and glean some examples. After a few minutes of conversation, re-focus the gathering and invite people to share the best ideas they've heard.

In the psalm there are some people who do forget the good and right ways of God, the promises and truth of God, the love and faithfulness of God – and those people turn into enemies. We can be careful not to turn into enemies ourselves by keeping God's words close.



Psalm 119:137-144

However, remembering God's ways isn't too hard for anyone. In the Psalm the composer describes themselves as small and despised – no one thinks much of them. But the ways of God aren't beyond them. You don't need super brains or abilities to know God and to remember God's good ways.

As we pray our psalm for one another and for our world, we want to make sure we don't forget God's goodness. So I invite you to do one or more of the following things.

Choose a line from this Psalm that you would like to carry close in your remembering this week and out it as a reminder in your phone, or write it on the back of your hand, or take one of the verses on a string from the Cork board as your reminder for the week.

These are simple things. Not hard. Even the smallest of us can be reminded. Let's help each other, and encourage each other in this now. Choose the part of the psalm you are going to be reminded of this week, choose a way to be reminded and tell someone else here which bit it is.

Allow time for people to choose their verse and do their remembering.

Now we are going to read the psalm together – and I invite you to join in on the part of the psalm that you have chosen not to forget.

Read Psalm 119:137-144. Allow space for all to join as they have chosen.

Psalm 119:137-144

119:137 You are righteous, O LORD, and your judgments are right.

119:138 You have appointed your decrees in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

119:139 My zeal consumes me because my foes forget your words.

119:140 Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.

119:141 I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts.

119:142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is the truth.

119:143 Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but your commandments are my delight.

119:144 Your decrees are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.