

## BETTER THAN THE RICHES OF THE WORLD

This Psalm actually describes the difference between those who put their hope and trust in the riches of this world and those who put their hope and trust in God.

The riches of this world, such as houses, cars, jewelries and money are just temporary. There's nothing wrong with having those things but we should not focus our heart on them or put our trust and hope in those temporary objects. Those who put their trust on their wealth will be disappointed in the end. But those who put their trust in God will not be disappointed because they know that everything in this world is just temporary and they will have an eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

We might not always have every little thing that we want, but God promised us that He will provide all of our needs.

#### Key verse:

Psalm 49:15a But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead

#### Prayer

Dear God, I want to love You more than anything. I give you my life and heart. Amen.



# BE LIKE THE OLIVE TREE

One of the most remarkable trees that is always mentioned in the Bible is the olive tree. One special thing about this tree is it can grow at any condition, like on the terraced hills, in the valley, in the rocky soil or fertile soil. It can thrive in great heat with a minimum amount of water.

Any kind of weather will not prevent the tree from growing and producing fruits. When it is cut down, the new shoot will just emerge from the root. However, this is a very slow growing plant thus it requires years of patience to reach the full bloom and fruitfulness.

When King David said that he was like an olive tree, it means no matter what kind of condition that he was facing in life, he would keep growing in God, patiently trusting in God and staying faithful in God's love forever and ever.

No matter what you are facing right now, let's keep growing in God and have a steadfast faith in God just like the olive tree.

#### Key verse:

Psalm 52:8 But I am like an olive tree growing in God's Temple. I trust God's love forever and ever.

#### Prayer

Dear God, just like the olive tree, I want to stay faithful in Your love no matter what I am facing in the future. I trust in Your great love. Amen.



## FRIEND OR FOE

Ave you ever been betrayed by your close friend? For example, your trusted your friend but he or she betrayed you by revealing your secret and embarrassing you in front of many people. Being betrayed by a friend or a family member is a very unpleasant experience that can lead to bitterness.

Do you know that King David had ever been betrayed by his own son, Absalom and his personal counselor named Ahithophel. He prayed to God how he wished he could just fly away like a dove so that he could escape the terrible situation and distressing betrayal of his loved ones.

As a man after God's heart, King David knew that he couldn't run away from the circumstances of life and couldn't be free from any trials in this world. Thus, he decided to run to God for help.

Just like David, when your friend becomes a foe because he has betrayed you, do not be bitter or try to run away. Instead, find refuge in God. Allow God to heal your pain. Pray for your betrayer just like David and Jesus prayed for their enemies.

#### Key verse:

Proverbs 11:13 A gossip betrays confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

#### Prayer

Dear God, I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ who has betrayed me in the past. May you take away my pain and turn it to peace. I want to forgive him/her. Amen.



### THE BOTTLE OF TEARS

T his is one of the most meaningful illustrations about God's tender and gracious love to His children. It writes that God knows your sadness, pain and worries. He knows when you cry in the middle of the night. He knows when you cry after having a big fight with your best friend. He knows when you cry for being too stressed due to the upcoming exams. He knows when you cry after being punished by your parents.

Every tear you shed has a certain meaning to Him. Your tears are so precious to Him to the extent that He has collected every single salty teardrop that has wet your lashes and recorded every single silent groan of your hurting heart. He has placed your tear in His bottle of remembrance and recorded each hurt in His book.

Be comforted and blessed knowing that there is Someone who knows, understands and records your tears, your pain and your joy. His tender and gracious love for you and me are forever present.

#### Key verse:

Psalm 56:8 You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in Your bottle. You have recorded each one in Your book.

#### Prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your love and care. I am blessed that all my sorrow and tears do not go in vain as they are precious to You. Amen,



## NO BAD DAYS

When you praise someone, it will be about the person's strength and great points that deserve a compliment. It means you think and focus on the positive and good points of that person. It is the same when you praise God. You only think about the greatness of God. The more you think of God's greatness, the more you will want to praise God.

You use your mouth to praise someone. When you praise God, you declare with your mouth all His greatness and power. The more you say those powerful words, the more strength you will gain and the smaller your problems will seem compared to the greatness of God.

Be like David who praised God every morning. How you start your morning will affect your whole day. For example, if the first thing you read and ponder on when you wake up is your social media page or some terrifying news, you may not be able to focus on what you need to work on for that day.

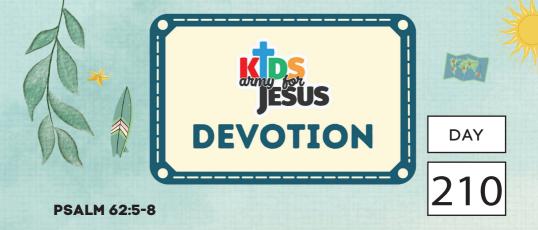
When you start your day praising the greatness of God, you will be able to handle whatever challenge you are facing that day, because you know that you have a great God.

#### Key verse:

Psalm 59:15 But I will sing about Your strength. I will rejoice in Your love every morning.

#### Prayer

Dear God, this morning, I come and rejoice in Your greatness, power and love. I am ready to have a great day today. Amen.



### GOD IS MY ROCK

A rock is solid, heavy and not easily changed from time to time. People use rocks for many good purposes. They can be used to hold down things so that they would not be blown away in a windstorm. With a rope attached, a rock can be used as an anchor for a boat. If you throw a rock into a fire pit, it might come out black but it is not burned.

Rocks provide shelter and safety in the wilderness. Rocks are also used to construct buildings, roads and city walls. In the Bible, rocks were used to build walls, fortresses and towers.

God is the rock. It means God is your source of strength in times of distress and danger. When you trust in God, He is like that rock that does not change, the rock where you can find security and safety. God will ensure you are safe.

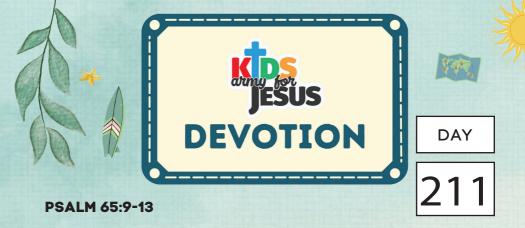
When you pray to God as your Rock, you are praying to the God who can always be counted on and be ready to protect you.

#### Key verse:

Psalm 62:7b He is the mighty Rock, where I am safe.

#### Prayer

Dear God, You are my Rock and I fully rely on You for absolute protection and salvation. Amen.



# **BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS**

This Psalm describes the bountiful blessings of God. God is not calculative at all when He blesses His children. He blesses His children in many various ways. David declares that it is God who cares for and waters the place where we live, the earth. The water in the form of rain softens the land so that plants can bloom and the harvest blesses the people.

The earth is made ready pleasantly by God for His children. God has designed the earth in such a way that we can be prosperous while we live here. How amazing it is that we are placed on this planet, that does not only have the ability to sustain life, but also to give bountiful blessings to the people who live on it.

The comfortable life you are living, the extraordinary nature around you and the material things you are enjoying are blessings from God. God has given us the bountiful blessings that we see in His creation to let us know that He exists and He loves us so much. Praise the Lord!

#### Key verse:

Psalm 65:9a You care for the land and water it; You enrich it abundantly.

#### Prayer

Dear God, I praise You for Your bountiful blessings in my life. Thank You for every single thing You have prepared for me. Amen.