

SEPTEMBER 2017 DEVOTIONAL IDEAS FOR SENIOR ADULTS

"Praise God"

Materials needed: Bible marked with the verses suggested in this devotional, music to the songs, "Praise Him," "Jesus Loves Me," "What A Friend We Have In Jesus," "Doxology" (these songs can easily be sung without accompaniment if there is no musical instrument).

Ahead of Time: straighten the room so that everyone can see and participate. Happily greet the seniors.

DEVOTIONAL TIME

- We all agree that God is good to us. But, sometimes we complain and forget HOW good God is to us. Name some ways that God is good to you. (Eyes to see, ears to hear, food, family, friends, America and freedom, the natural world, animals....)
- Together, let's sing a praise-song about God's goodness. "God is so good, God is so good. God is so good, He's so good to me."
- As a child, you may have learned a song about praising God...a song children still sing. The first stanza of the song is: "Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children, God is love, God is love; Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children, God is love, God is love.". The second stanza of the song is: "Love Him, love Him, all you little children, God is love, God is love" (repeat), The third stanza of the song is: "Thank Him, thank Him, all you little children, God is love, God is love" (repeat).
- Now, let's sing all three stanzas of that praise song, Praise Him, Love Him, Thank Him.

Like the first part of that wonderful little song, "Praise Him, Praise Him",

WE PRAISE GOD BECAUSE HE IS OUR CREATOR, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, OUR GOD

Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Psalm 139: 13 and 15

"(God) You created every part of me; you put me in my mother's womb. When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother's womb, when I was growing there..you know I was there."

Psalm 150:2 - "Praise God for the mighty things He has done. Praise Him for His supreme greatness."

Psalm 145: 3, 13, 21 - "God is great and is to be highly praised; His greatness is beyond understanding." "The Lord is faithful to His promises and everything he does is good." "I will always praise The Lord; let all his creatures praise His Holy Name forever."

Isaiah 42:10 - "Sing a new song to the Lord; sing His praise, all the world!"

Like the second part of that wonderful children's song, "Love Him, Love Him",

WE PRAISE GOD BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR US.

- John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
- Pray, thanking God for His Love and for sending His Son to die on the cross so that, if we confess our sins and accept Him as our Savior, we can have eternal life.
- Let's sing the praise song, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."
- I John 4:8-10 - "Whosoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. And God showed His love for us by sending His only Son into the world, so that we might have life through Him. This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God..."
- Let's praise God by singing the song of praise, "Jesus Loves Me."

Like the third part of that wonderful children's song, "Thank Him, Thank Him",

WE PRAISE AND THANK GOD BECAUSE OF HIS GOODNESS TO US

- We began this devotional time together by thinking about and naming some ways that God has been good to us. What are some ways we can thank God?
- Psalm 106:1 - "Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good; His love is eternal."
- Psalm 138:1 - "I thank You, Lord, with all my heart. I sing praise to you."
- Psalm 145:1-2a - "I will proclaim your greatness, my God and King, I will thank you forever and ever. Every day I will thank you."
- Pray, thanking God for His power, His Love for us, and His goodness to us.
- End with leading the group to sing, praising God with the Doxology: *"Praise God from whom all blessings flow: Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."*

A CRAFT IDEA: PRAISE POSTER

Materials needed: 8x10 sheets of heavy white or colored paper with the words, PRAISE GOD, LOVE GOD, THANK GOD neatly printed in the middle of the poster-page, so that a border and decorations can be placed artistically around the words. Provide crayons, markers, glue sticks, glitter, sequins, and other decorative items that can be used to decorate the poster.

As the seniors decorate their Praise Posters, begin a conversation about why we should praise God, why we should love God, and why we should thank God.

Willa Ruth Garlow is an active member of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, OK