

WELCOME TO THE 2025 NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF  
CHILDREN'S SABBATHS® CELEBRATION

## Sermon Starters, Psalms, and Poems

### Preaching and Prayer for Children's Sabbath

Sometimes all you need is a spark. Sermon starters, psalms, and poems provide fresh entry points for worship and reflection.

**Who this is activity for:** Preachers, worship leaders, small group leaders

**Why we're doing it:** To give leaders flexible, creative resources for sermons, devotionals, and prayers.

#### 1. Online Resources

- Sermon Starters by Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair-Lavallais are [available online](#).
- Poetry by Ash Love, MSW, MDiv is also [available online](#).

FULL SERMON STARTERS AND POEMS CAN BE ACCESSED ON OUR WEBSITE. THESE ARE DESIGNED TO SERVE AS FULL SERMONS, SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS, OR PRAYER REFLECTIONS.

#### 2. Workbook Activities

- This workbook will include:
  - Two complete psalms by Rev. Vahisha Hasan.
- Guided psalm-writing activities inspired by her psalm format.

#### 3. Facilitator Help

- Invite youth or lay leaders to read psalms aloud.
- Encourage communities to adapt the language to reflect their context.
- Consider using written psalms as part of worship, devotionals, or small group gatherings.
- Always cite the authors of the poems, sermon starters, and psalm activities Ash Love, MSW, MDiv, Rev. Dr. Yvette Blair-Lavallais, and Rev. Vahisha Hasan.

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## Activity 8 Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity

### For Congregations and Faith Communities

This activity invites children and youth to step into the ancient practice of psalm-making by adding their own voices, experiences, and imagination. The templates provided give a structure for prayer, but the power comes from the words that children bring.

#### How to Use

- In Worship: Provide printed psalm templates in bulletins or worship packets. Invite children (and adults) to fill them in during a quiet moment. Completed psalms may be read aloud, displayed, or woven into the service.
- In Classes or Small Groups: Gather children in circles or classrooms. Read the psalm aloud and pause for the group to suggest words together, creating a shared psalm of the day.
- Intergenerational Settings: Pair children with adults to complete the psalms side by side. Invite each generation to learn from the other's perspective.
- Community Displays: Collect the finished psalms and place them on a wall, altar table, or digital slideshow so that the whole community sees the children's prayers as central to worship.

#### Facilitator Help

- Encourage children to answer with feelings, pictures in their minds, or everyday experiences.
- Remind the community that there are no "right" or "wrong" answers. Each psalm is a sacred expression of a child's truth.
- Adapt the activity to your faith tradition—whether sung aloud, spoken in call-and-response, chanted, or shared in silence.

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Activity **8** **Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity**  
For Congregations and Faith Communities

**Psalm 1**  
**EXAMPLE**

written by: Rev. Vahisha Hasan

**1** God blesses people who love all the animals  
And blesses people who won't say mean things  
And has friends that share their dinosaur toys  
**2** but God's goodness makes us feel happy  
and we hold that in our heart all day and all night.  
**3** We feel special like it's our birthday  
Then we can have ice cream and cake  
And we will be great everyday.



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Activity **8** **Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity**

For Congregations and Faith Communities

**Psalm 1: 1-3**  
**The Way to**  
**Happiness**

written by: Rev. Vahisha Hasan

**1** God blesses people who \_\_\_\_\_

And blesses people who won't \_\_\_\_\_

And has friends that \_\_\_\_\_

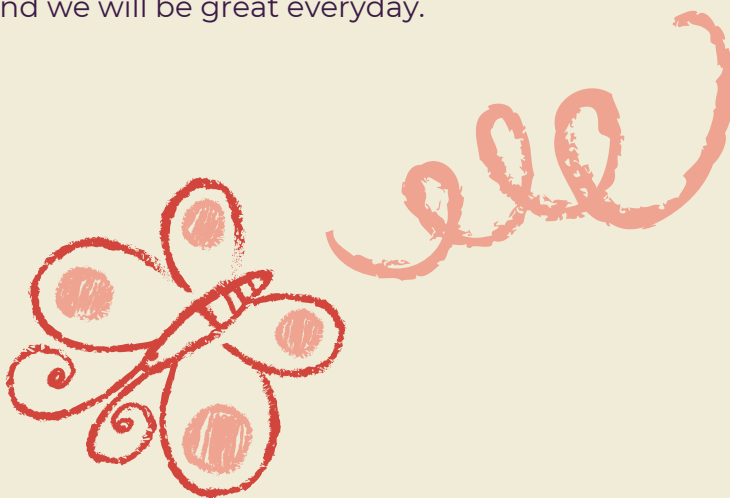
**2** but God's goodness makes us feel \_\_\_\_\_

and we hold that in our heart all day and all night.

**3** We feel special like \_\_\_\_\_

Then we can have \_\_\_\_\_

And we will be great everyday.



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Activity **8** **Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity**  
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**Psalm 3: 1-6**  
**A Morning Prayer**

written by: Rev. Vahisha Hasan

**1** There are a lot of mean people God.  
Many of them tease

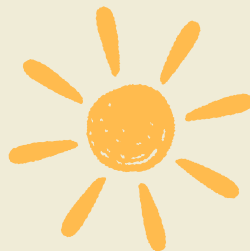
**2** me and say \_\_\_\_\_  
And say "God cannot rescue you"

**3** but God wants me to be safe and \_\_\_\_\_  
and gives me achievement and  
\_\_\_\_\_ and great esteem.

**4** I pray to God, and God hears me  
from God's sacred space.

**5** I sleep and wake up feeling \_\_\_\_\_  
because God protects me.

**6** So many people are not kind or  
\_\_\_\_\_ but I am not afraid.



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Activity **8** **Fill-in-the-Blank Psalm Activity**

For Congregations and Faith Communities

**Psalm 4: 1-8**  
**An Evening Prayer**

written by: Rev. Vahisha Hasan

**1** You are my God and my protector  
Please answer my prayer

I had a rough day because

---

but you are with me.

Now be kind and hear me  
as I pray.

**8** I can lie down  
and sleep soundly  
Because you, God,  
will keep me safe.

