

GOD, YOU ARE

20 Promises from the Psalms for Kids

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ILLUSTRATED BY
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God, You Are: 20 Promises from the Psalms for Kids

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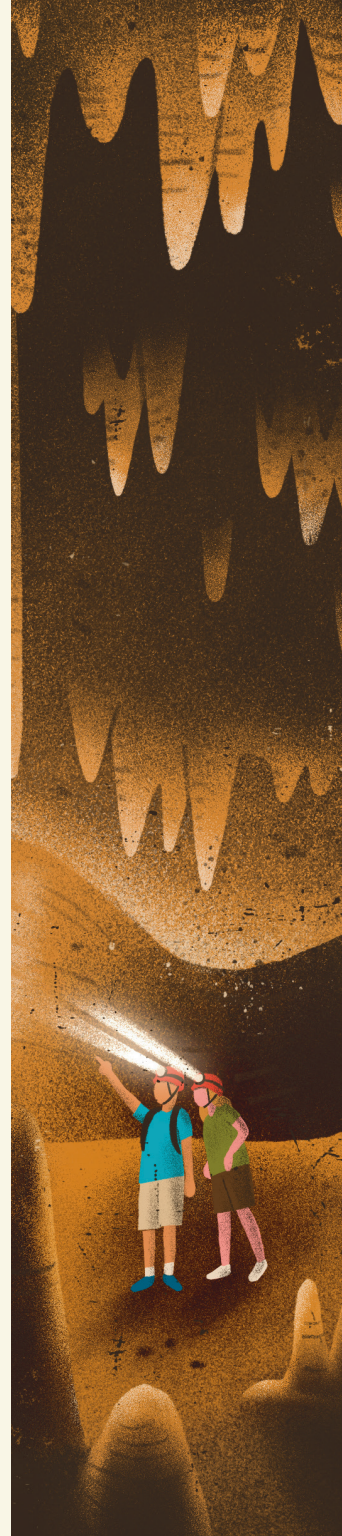
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To Henry,
that you may know the God
who made you and loves you.

Introduction

Few times are as special for a parent and child as the moments before bedtime. As a father of four, I now look back over hundreds of nighttime prayers, Bible stories, and final hugs and kisses. What sometimes seemed like such a chore at the moment—in the hustle of brushing teeth, rounding up schoolwork, and chasing siblings—already feels like one of the sweetest gifts God has given me and my wife. We have prayed with our kids, been prayed for by our kids, and grown in the knowledge of God together. It is my prayer that *God, You Are* serves to bless you and your children with the same good gift we've been given.

For thousands of years, Christians have reflected on the goodness and greatness of God in the Psalms. *God, You Are* takes twenty “you are” passages from this poetic book and helps children reflect on God’s character. Each devotion is designed to explain these various statements in the Psalms, while also helping children see how they point us toward Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s word. Each section concludes with a short prayer that is designed for small children to be able to repeat and hear themselves proclaim the glorious truths of our magnificent God.

C. S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity* that all written reflections about God are like a map—they are not the real land. No one goes on a trip and sits in the car looking at a map, while the glorious landscape itself lies just ahead. *God, You Are* is kind of like a map. My hope is that it is a compelling, accurate, and informed map—but it is still just a map. The real thing lies just ahead, out in front of you and your little one. Whether this book is read at night or in the morning over breakfast, or used to help memorize short promises about who God is, I pray it encourages your family to continually marvel at the *real one* and think *God, You Are . . . Amazing!*

God, You Are Holy

*Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel. (Ps. 22:3)*

Imagine you are at a birthday party looking at a table full of snacks—apples, carrot slices, granola bars . . . wait . . . what . . . a *cupcake*. On a table full of okay snacks sits one gloriously delicious-looking cupcake. What do you think is the greatest, or most valuable, thing on that table?

God's greatness is far more than a cupcake's! When we say that God is holy, we are saying that he is the most powerful and perfect being that exists. He is unique; he stands out when compared with everything else. There is no one like God in all of the universe—he *made* the universe! Since he is the greatest and most valuable being that exists, we should honor him, celebrate him, and worship him.

Psalms 22:3 leads us to imagine God sitting on a throne, but not a normal throne for a normal king. It is as if all of the praises of God's people (who are called Israel in the Old Testament) come together and form a praise-throne, and the most powerful, perfect, one-and-only King is sitting upon it. As his people, we will spend forever praising God for his holiness, and we will never reach the end of his greatness.

*Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come! (Rev. 4:8)*

Let's Pray: Dear God, you are perfect and powerful. You are the one and only holy God. Help me to sing your praises forever. Amen.



God, You Are with Me

*I will fear no evil,
for you are with me. (Ps. 23:4)*

Being scared is no fun. No one likes to be afraid, no matter what the reason is. But what should you do when you are scared? Hide under the covers? Run as fast as you can? Put your hands over your eyes and scream (like this . . .)?

Psalm 23 tells us what we should do when we are scared. Whenever we feel afraid, we can trust that we are not alone. Doesn't it feel good to be with a friend or a parent when you're afraid? Well, the wonderful news is that the most powerful person in the entire universe is with us! Psalm 23:4 helps us to understand that we do not need to be afraid of anything because the all-powerful God is the always-present God.

All throughout the Bible God encourages his people by telling them that he will be with them. God tells Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, and David these incredible words. He says, "I will be with you." These strong words helped God's leaders not to be afraid and to follow him. The next time you are scared, remember these ancient and powerful words God has spoken, and know that God is also with *you*.

For he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb. 13:5)

Let's Pray: Dear God, help me to believe that you are always with me, even when I'm scared. You are powerful and present, and I love you. Amen.

