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## **"Christmas with the Psalms: Find Peace for Your Heart"**

By  
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**What** The journey of faith isn't a walk at the beach. It's an adrenaline ride with lots of ups and downs. David, the man after God's own heart, honestly wrestles with how tough life is in the Psalms, which is a gift to anyone seeking peace. He clearly saw a picture of the Savior in his writings, and how Jesus would bring peace in a world of trouble. Part of the "Christmas with the Psalms" series, this easy-to-produce reading is for two readers. It will bring your service alive in a special way this Advent.

Themes: Advent, Peace, Readers Theater, Christmas, Psalms, Anxiety, Conflict, Overcoming, Duet

**Who** Two readers, male or female.

**When** The Present.

**Costumes** Age appropriate, no distracting logos, necklines, or hemlines

**Props** A candle and a lighter.

**Why** Psalm 119:20-30, John 16:33

**How** **If you are reading for an online service**, read it with passion and emotion, and don't be afraid to take your time. Look at the audience or into the computer camera. Ensure all your notifications are turned off and emails are closed and have the PDF on screen near the camera.

**If you read the script from the pulpit**, be familiar enough with your lines so that your head isn't down in the script the entire time. Look audience members in the eye. Take time to pause and breathe. Embrace the awe and mystery of the scripture.

**Time** 2-3 minutes

*Lights up. The **Readers** address the audience directly.*

**Reader 1:** Life on earth is *tough*.

**Reader 2:** The Bible tells us so!

**Reader 1:** It's fair to say that human reality isn't for the faint of heart.

**Reader 2:** You probably don't need much convincing of the fact. Just read the news headlines today and you're reminded of this fact of life.

**Reader 1:** As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let's be thankful that the Bible doesn't pretend that life is a piece of cake.

**Reader 2:** It may not be easy, but in the midst of trouble and hardship, there can be peace.

**Reader 1:** David tells us this in the Psalms.

**Reader 2:** The beloved book that we so often go to is filled with honesty about life.

**Reader 1:** And this psalmist in particular had it rough.

**Reader 2:** There were pressures coming against him at all sides.

**Reader 1:** His friends left him.

**Reader 2:** Princes plotted against him.

**Reader 1:** His soul melted from sorrow.

**Reader 2:** He cried out to God morning and night seeking peace and help.

**Reader 1:** David, the man after God's own heart, honestly wrestled with how tough life *is*.

**Reader 2:** Aren't you thankful at how honest he is?

**Reader 1:** That he didn't portray his spiritual journey as some barefoot walk on a beach?

**Reader 2:** It's not even a flower-picking picnic in the sunshine.

**Reader 1:** It is a rollercoaster.

**Reader 2:** It has adrenaline.

**Reader 1:** There are terrors, real and perceived.

**Reader 2:** Without help, from God and from others, there's no sense of peace.

**Reader 1:** But David, throughout the Psalms, also saw one thing clearly.

**Reader 2:** Jesus.

**Reader 1:** The Messiah.

**Reader 1:** Over and over again, Israel's second King had a glimpse of the goodness of God being fulfilled, and how God in his grace would bring lasting peace for every heart that seeks him.

**Reader 2:** And Jesus fulfilled that promise.

**Reader 1:** And He was honest about the reality of life too.

**Reader 1:** "In the world you have trouble and suffering," Jesus tells us.

**Reader 2:** "But take courage — I have conquered the world."

**Reader 1:** Together, David and Jesus help us to find the peace we're all seeking this Christmas.

**Reader 2:** Every human heart needs it.

**Reader 1:** Every person you connect with longs for it.

**Reader 2:** In this world where troubles are real, we cry out to God for help.

**Reader 1:** And Jesus faithfully answers that cry. He brings peace.

**Reader 1** holds up the candle. **Reader 2** lights it with the lighter.

**Reader 1:** Today, as we light this candle of Advent, we open our hearts to the peace that Jesus brings.

**Reader 2:** We remember that Jesus answers the cry of every troubled heart.

**Reader 1:** God, we ask that You fill our hearts with peace and that our community will carry it into all the places that you call us to go. Amen.

*Lights down.*