

Psalm 34:1—"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Introduce Psalm 34 by telling the kids that this song was written by David when he was running from Saul and pretended to be crazy before the Philistine King Achish. You can either read or simply tell about the account in 1Samuel 21:10-22:1a.

If you are comfortable singing the psalm to the kids, sing the entire psalm. I like to do this to get the point across that this was written as a song of praise. It's also easier to keep their attention when you sing it or at least read with lots of expression and inflection. The melody I used was a traditional melody for the first verses of the psalm. I just repeated the melody for the rest of Psalm 34. (I sang an example in the "kids' songs" on our website if you want to hear the melody.) I let the kids pick shakers and musical instruments to play along.

Craft:

Create a giant mouth out of a tissue box using white cardstock for teeth and eyes and craft sticks for hands.



You can also spray paint the tissue boxes if you want to decorate them further, but the ones we had already had some nice designs, so we just used them as

they were. We used glue sticks to glue the teeth and eyes onto the boxes and I punched a hole in the sides with a knife for the arms.

Then, with the scraps of paper and card stock, we wrote down praises and put them in our mouth boxes. The ones, who could not yet write, drew. For example, one drew a person; another drew a smiley face; and another drew a cross and glued it to the back of her mouth box so it could be seen (if you looked carefully).

We displayed these under a sign that read, "His praise shall continually be in my mouth."