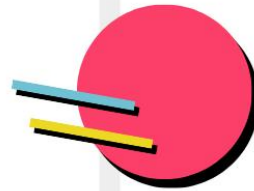




What instantly takes you back to the 1990s?

Most of us instinctively think the 90s were “not that long ago.”
But Psalm 90 asks what happens when we realize how quickly life moves.

SO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS
THAT WE MAY GET A HEART OF WISDOM.
- PSALM 90:12



1990



In 1990, the Hubble telescope launched and changed humanity's understanding of the universe. The deeper humanity looked into space the larger creation appeared and the smaller humanity felt. Psalm 90 creates the same effect spiritually. The only psalm of Moses begins where modern people rarely do: not with ourselves, but with eternity.



Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God. You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in Your sight are but as

yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

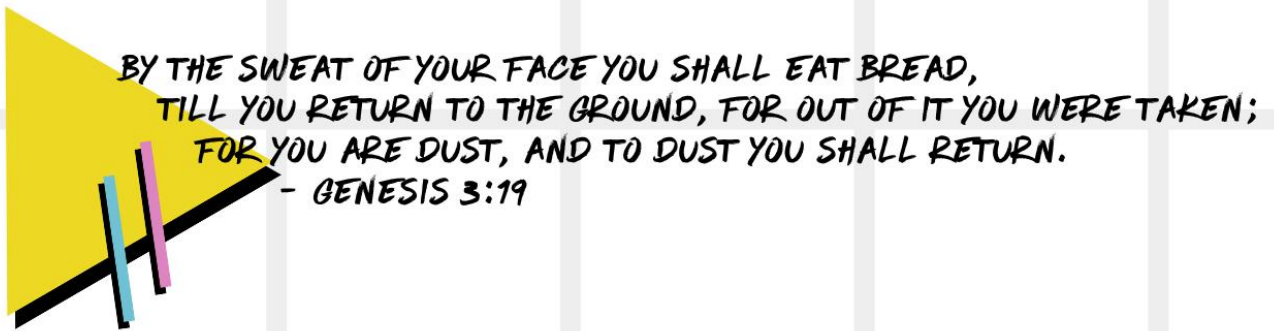
For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence. For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on Your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let Your work be shown to your servants, and Your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! - Psalm 90 ESV

DISCUSS

- **HOW DO YOU STRUGGLE TO GRASP YOUR LIMITATION & FINITUDE?**
- **WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS OUR "DWELLING PLACE"?**
- **WHY IS PERMANENCE COMFORTING?**

Moses is unusually blunt. He does not romanticize humanity:
life is _____, sin is _____, death is _____.



What are some ways culture tries to avoid thinking about death?

The main character in 1990's Home Alone, Kevin McAllister spends the film trying to prove he can handle life independently. Psalm 90 dismantles our self-sufficiency. On our own, we are like a little child trying to take on - not bumbling bad guys - but the forces of a universe beyond our control.

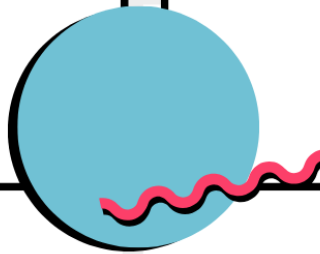
Recognizing our size in the scope of the universe isn't meant to drive us to despair. On the contrary, a proper perspective on life and our own limitation ought to drive us to wisdom, trust and dependence.

Playing games with mortality pretending it doesn't exist isn't what makes us wise. Facing mortality faithfully does. When our culture says "pretend you will live forever," Psalm 90 says "because you will not live forever, live wisely."



What do people waste their
lives chasing?

What actually makes life
meaningful?



Psalm 90 does not end with death. It ends with the prayer that God would establish something eternal through our fragile human lives.

DISCUSS

- WHY DOES AWARENESS OF DEATH SOMETIMES PRODUCE WISDOM?
- WHAT MAKES THIS PSALM APPROPRIATE FOR HOLY TRINITY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY?

What is one thing you want to do differently if Psalm 90 reveals real wisdom?

THIS WEEK

- Read Psalm 90 daily
- Write down one way you notice time passing
- Reflect: "What would wisdom look like this week?"
- Wake up and pray every morning: "Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love."