Episode: Kings and Prophets Series No. 6
Narrator: Mary
Primary Scriptures: *Psalms*
Story Summary: Narration about the book of *Psalms*
Location: Israel
Time: Circa 1000-900 BC
Suggested Memory Scriptures: Psalms 1:1-2; 8:3-4, 9; 19:7-9, 14; 22:16-18; 23; 34:15-16; 119:9-11, 18

David wrote approximately half of the Psalms. He wrote them in different periods of his life, and they reflect both his troubles and his triumphs. But regardless of which he's writing about, he always shows reverence and praise for God. It is in the Psalms where we most easily see why God loved David's heart.

The rest of the Psalms were written by Solomon, Moses, Asaph, the sons of Korah and others. Many of the Psalms are not attributed to any particular writer.
The Psalms were written over many centuries to many different audiences. The way they were compiled and edited probably reflects some unknown political and religious agendas.

The word "Psalm" comes from a Greek word meaning "words accompanying the music." It appears that most of the Psalms were songs, written to be playing alongside musical instruments. Many of them were written in standard poetic or song forms which would have been apparent in the original Hebrew language and to the original readers or performers.

Some experts believe the Psalms can be sorted into various types, such as: communal laments, personal laments, praises to God, royal celebrations and causes, and thanksgiving.

The book of Psalms has remained popular for thousands of years, probably because it speaks to emotional states and psychological needs that transcend time and culture. It portrays God in ways that no other book of the Bible does, and gives people ways to proven ways to praise him. It is no wonder that many Christians have incorporated the Psalms into their daily scripture reading.

Discussion Questions:
1. If you wanted to learn about someone's character how would you do it?
2. If you wanted to learn about someone's emotions how would you do it?
3. 1 Samuel 13:14 says that God found David to be a man after his own heart. That statement was made when David was a young man. Do you think the Psalms reveal that his heart stayed that way or that it changed as he got older? Read Psalm 103. What period of his life do you think he wrote that Psalm?

Applications Questions:
1. 1 Samuel 13:14 says that God found David to be a man after his own heart. What characteristics of David and God can you find in the first five Psalms? How many of those characteristics do you have?
2. How can you use the Psalms to develop a heart like God's?
3. Psalm 119 was probably written by a Bible expert, like Ezra or Nehemiah. Read twenty or thirty verses and say what you learned about the benefits of knowing the Scriptures intimately.
4. Read Psalm 101 out loud. Read it again and convert it into a prayer as you do so.
5. Read Psalm 33. Does this Psalm fit with your understanding of God and how he acts in your life?
Application Questions for Teens:
1. Read Psalm 1. Have you found any of the things talked about in the Psalm to be true, or do those just seem like nice religious things to say?
2. Psalm 23 is certainly the most famous of the Psalms. Is there any part of the Psalm that you can relate to? Why or why not? What does it mean for the Lord to be your shepherd?
3. Read Psalm 100 slowly. Convert it to a prayer as you do so.
4. Many of the Psalms are laments that take God to task for a perceived failure on His part. Do you feel comfortable talking to God in a similar manner? Why or why not?