

## Adult Bible Studies

### Current Events Supplement December 16, 2018

#### Love and Worship God Psalm 103:1-17, 21-22

On Friday, December 1, former US president George H. W. Bush passed away at his home in Houston, Texas.<sup>1</sup> Among the many words of praise from colleagues and friends, his son former president George W. Bush said, “He was a great father. . . . [We] couldn’t have a better father [because] he gave us unconditional love. . . . There is no doubt about how much he loved us, which I think is a very important gift that a father can give to his children.”<sup>2</sup>

In today’s lesson, the student book author writes of the psalmist’s use of “the image of God as a loving parent. . . . The parent metaphor invites people to understand God in this more intimate way.”<sup>3</sup> We recognize that the loving parent metaphor can be difficult to grasp for some people who did not experience a loving parent figure. We also recognize that Scripture often uses the loving parent metaphor for God. Parents, loving or not, are essential to human life. Love adds richness, beauty, and intimacy to human life.

The student book author says, “The psalmist invites us . . . to express our gratitude and delight in experiencing God’s great mercy, compassion, patience, and faithful love.”<sup>4</sup> God loves every human being unconditionally, faithfully, steadfastly. We pray for the day that every human being knows without question God’s deep, abiding love. May we say, “There is no doubt about how much God loves me, which I think is a very important gift that a parent can give to all children.”

1. How do you express your gratitude and delight from experiencing God’s mercy, compassion, patience, and faithful love?
2. What does *faithful love* mean to you? Why is God’s faithful love important to all humankind?
3. How can you show God’s faithful love to someone who questions God’s deep, abiding love?

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<sup>1</sup>From “George H. W. Bush, 41st President, Dies at 94,” CBS News ([cbsnews.com/news/george-h-w-bush-dead-94-years-old-41st-president-united-states-obituary-cause-of-death-2018-12-01/](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/george-h-w-bush-dead-94-years-old-41st-president-united-states-obituary-cause-of-death-2018-12-01/)).

<sup>2</sup>From “George H. W. Bush ‘Gave Us Unconditional Love,’ George W. Bush says,” *60 Minutes*, CBS News, ([cbsnews.com/video/george-h-w-bush-gave-us-unconditional-love-george-w-bush-says/](https://www.cbsnews.com/video/george-h-w-bush-gave-us-unconditional-love-george-w-bush-says/)).

<sup>3</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2018-2019, by Stan Purdum (Cokesbury, 2018); pages 22-23.

<sup>4</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*; page 24.