

Oceans

Patsy Rowe

June 8 is World Oceans Day

Preparations:

This could be an opportunity for someone to show their “Ocean Cruise” pictures or video



Another option is to show a movie: *The Little Mermaid*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Finding Nemo*. For a more serious movie, select *Titanic* or *The Perfect Storm*.

Online Resources:

<http://www.theoceanproject.org/wod/>

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/events-evenements/oceansday-journeedesocceans/index-eng.htm>

Fun Song Suggestions:

My Bonny Lies Over the Ocean

Under the Sea (Little Mermaid)

Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini

Down by the Bay where the Watermelons Grow

Spiritual Songs Suggestions:

Wide, wide as the ocean

We are out on the ocean sailing

Eternal Father, strong to save (Salvation Army Songbook # 569)

O Boundless Salvation (Salvation Army Songbook # 298)

Boundless as the Mighty Ocean (Salvation Army Songbook # 230)

Above the Waves of Earthly Strife (Salvation Army Songbook #872)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32

Devotional: “The Ocean—Friend or Foe”

People who live by the ocean learn two things about it at a very early age:

1. **It gives:** The ocean is not something that is there for some unknown reason. It gives food to nourish the hungry; it moderates the weather on the land; it is a pathway of transportation; it absorbs carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere.
2. **It takes away:** During a storm, the ocean can erode away the land. The raging waters also makes one aware that it also has the ability to take away life, for many people have drowned in the ocean. For some strange reason, the ocean also has the ability to take

away turmoil in one's life, for it seems to calm and sooth the soul when one watches its rolling waves for a few minutes.

The ocean is to be feared and revered. In Psalm 107: 2, the psalmist explains that he is writing the testimony of those who have had various experiences in life and have lived to tell of the Lord's redemption:

V. 4-9, he writes about the thirsty people in the desert, for whom the Lord has provided;

V. 10-16, he writes about those who have experienced the darkness of imprisonment, for whom the Lord has provided;

V. 17-22, he writes about those who made bad choices in life, yet the Lord provided;

V. 23-32, he writes about those who have experienced the dangers of the ocean, and yet the Lord provided;

V. 15, 21, 31—are repetitive verses which point out the response of those for whom the Lord provides: *“Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind”* (NIV).

V. 33-42—shows that God gives everyone various experiences in life—both the good and the bad. Verse 42 highlights that it is each individual's personal choice of how to respond to those experiences.

V. 43—the psalmist ends by causing the reader to have a personal reflection—am I the wise person who will *“heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord”* (NIV)? To do so, it will make us a better person with a better attitude towards living, and it will place a better perspective on the experiences of life, as we acknowledge the sovereignty of God in all things.

