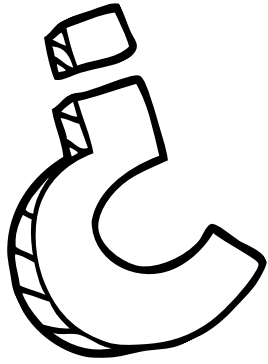


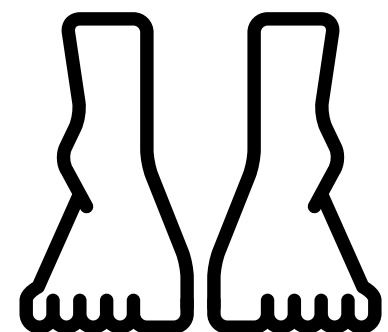
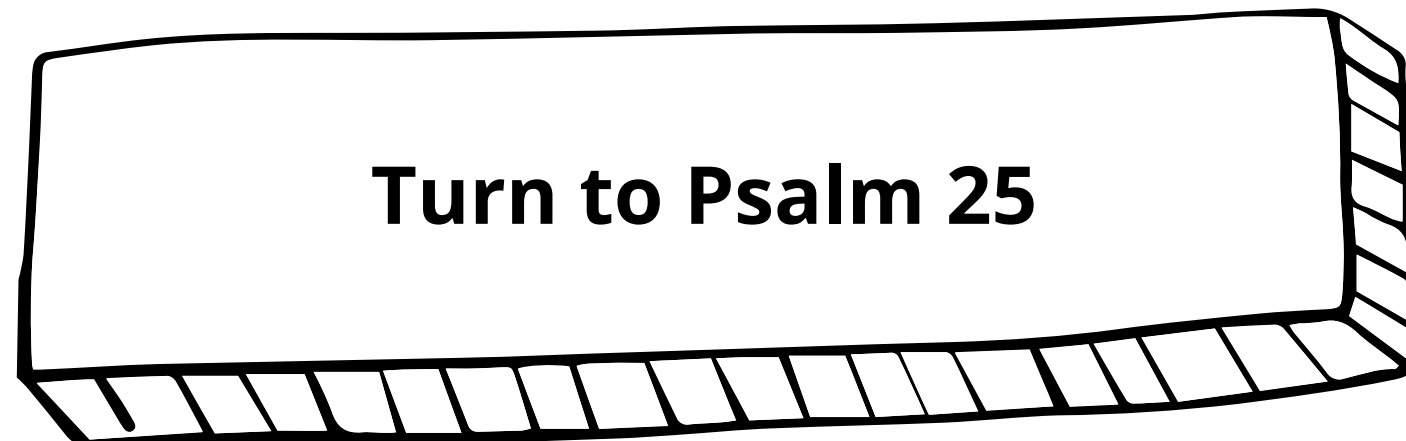
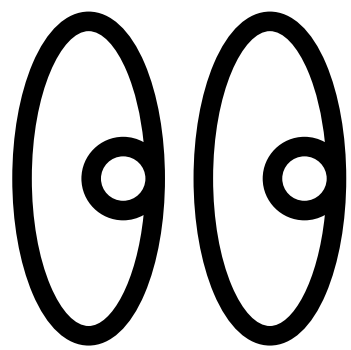
But...



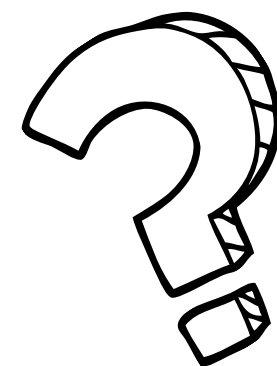
...it's results day! (In Scotland)



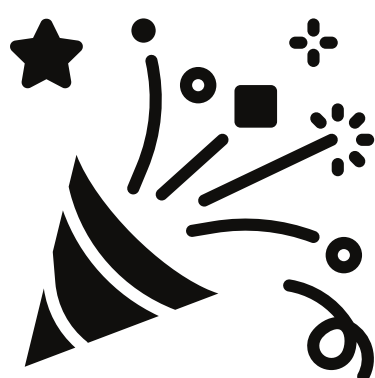
Why should you be staring at your feet today?



Look again at Psalm 25:15 for the answer!



Today is a day of mixed emotions: hope, fear, excitement, dread, worry, denial... and all before you've even got your results! What comes after? Planning, talking, comparing, celebrating.... or, for some, *not* celebrating...



If it's gone well, then well done you! Enjoy your well-earned success and ignore all the media-hype about how exams are getting easier. They say that every year, and in reality NOTHING is getting easier for young people in our post-pandemic, recession hit world.

If things have gone less well, don't despair! My own A-level results day felt like one of the worst days EVER, but just a few short years later I was following my dreams at University, after getting a little bit of help to catch up with my peers. And I've never looked back!



One of the key ingredients to success is patience. Sure, I realised my ambitions a little bit later than I'd planned - but by the time I got to university I was older, wiser and so much more determined to show the world what I was capable of.

A Bible hero who knew all about patience was King David. Almost 15 years passed between the time when David learned that he would be king over Israel, and the time he actually took the throne. If you skim the story from 1 Samuel 16 through to 2 Samuel 2, you'll see that those intervening years were pretty eventful! David did a lot in his waiting years, and one of the things he did was compose a number of psalms about his relationship with God. Psalm 25 is thought to be one of those psalms.

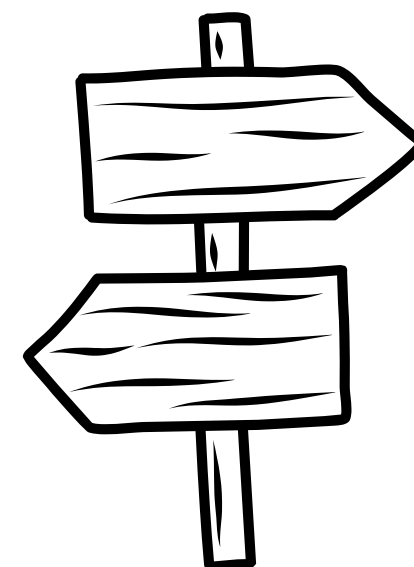


Look at what David writes in Psalm 25:1 - whose judgement is the most important in his life?

In verses 2 and 3, what does David say about God's judgement over us?

In verses 4 and 5, where can we look for guidance if we are unsure of our next steps?

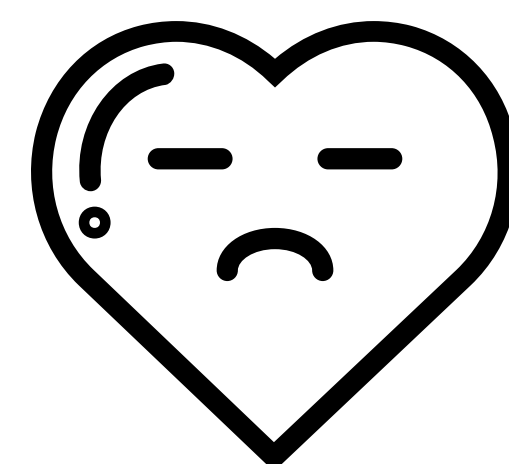
Looking to God is easier said than done! It's not like God guides us by painting neon arrows in the sky! So how can we follow David's advice in real life? Verse 6 gives us one clue, and there is another in verse 10.



Ever get stuck halfway through an essay? What did you do? You probably looked back at what you'd written so far to remind yourself where you were going. In verse 6, this is the advice that David gives. If you're not sure what the signs are for where God is leading you next, look back on your life for signs of where God has been leading you up to this point. And verse 10 reminds us that God's guidance is always in line with God's character - although God sometimes leads us to rest (1 kings 19), God never calls us to simply run away or give up in the face of setbacks.

Depending on how things have gone with your results, you may be feeling some regret. Perhaps you didn't revise as much as you should have done, or didn't take those extra few minutes to check your work before turning it in.

Take a look at verse 7. Do you think David is entirely happy with his own track record?



Verses 16-18 also return to this feeling of regret. What does it feel like in David's body, when he examines his past mistakes. Can you identify with this?



Of course, if everything has gone well, you may not be feeling any regret today, and that's great! However, what warning can we take from verse 9?

Humility is not about thinking you are less than you are, but it's important not to think that you are more than you are! You can find some great teaching about Biblical humility in Philippians 2:1-18.

Whatever the ups and downs of today, and of the days and weeks that follow, remember that God is with you and God loves you no matter what!

If it helps, you could write out John 14:27 on a sticky note or somewhere you will see it, and carry it with you as a reminder to find peace, today and always...

