

Watch this video of two girls on a slingshot ride: [Two girls on the slingshot ride](#)

(No tech video summary: This video is one of those where the riders are pretty scared and they fluctuate between fun and scared. They tell people how much they love them, then they scream and cry out.

Devotional Thoughts:

Many of us enjoy the thrill rides at the amusement parks. (Take a minute to share some of your favorite rides and why you love them)

Part of the thrill at the theme park is the adrenaline rush—those tense moments of anticipation just before the ride roars away at high speed; the clack-clack-clack of the chain pulling our coaster up the hill—the one that goes silent just as our car crests the hill and starts to fall out of the sky.

Sometimes our fear bursts out unexpectedly like the little girl on the left in the video who was quiet for the beginning and then cries out suddenly, *“God, have mercy, help me!... You’re my best mommy ever!... Help me Jesus, I just ‘lost control of my bladder’.* We love the thrill of the ride, but we want to know that we’re still actually safe and secure.

Psalm 5 has some verses about the protection our God provides constantly. Read Psalm 5:1-3 and then verses 11-12. Isn’t it always a more enjoyable day at the park or anywhere when we know we can count on the love and protection of our Heavenly Father no matter what!

Did you catch the comments from the girl on the right? *“Get me off of this thing!” and then she tells her friend, “I love you, you’re my best friend ever... If I die, tell my mamma I loved her.”* Her friend wisely answers, *“If you die, I’m dying right here with you”* What will it take, what does it take for you to be willing to share your love and feelings with your family? Are you thankful for the blessing of family you are able to enjoy?

At the very beginning of the video clip the young lady on the right yells down, *“Miss Samantha, you were always my favorite mamma!”* We might surmise that the girls are foster children, or out with some sort of group outing. It is possible their at home family dynamics might be different from yours. Are you thankful for your blessings? Are you mindful of those who work to provide for children and young people who have suffered pain and tragedy in their home lives?

Aren’t we glad that God is always able to provide for any and all of His children, no matter their setting or needs?

Listen to/sing along with the following songs:

[Holy Spirit](#)

[Breathe](#)

[Shout to the Lord](#)

[100 popular songs available by following this link](#)

For your time of celebrating communion, read Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

While you are meditating and partaking of the Lord's Supper, think about the many intense emotions Jesus experienced that week. Think about how he too cried out to His Father for protection. Consider how Jesus and His disciples had grown into such a tightly-knit community, like family, even though they weren't related. Be thankful for the way Jesus death, burial and resurrection provide eternal protection. Be grateful for your Christian brothers and sisters who are likewise celebrating this memorial meal today.

Applying the passage/devotion where we are:

- 1) You may well spend a good portion of your day at the park walking up and down those long lines. Pick out a particular family or group. Pray for them each time you pass them in line.
- 2) Use your wait time today to share some of your fears with your family or group. Share times and ways you've experienced or felt or appreciated God's protection.

3) Maybe you'll cross paths with a group from a foster home or some other government or community service agency. See if you can find a way to help buy a snack or a treat for those kids.

Personal prayer time:

As you pray and draw your worship time to a close, share some of your deepest fears with God. Maybe "regular life" intimidates you far more than any "make believe theme park" environment. Pray that you'll recognize and experience God's protection and peace each day, at home or away. Pray for your family and pray for those who perhaps do not enjoy some of the daily family interaction and relationship you may at times take for granted.

Mission opportunity to support: [Christian Children's Home of Ohio](#)