



PSALMS OF PRAISE

**6-WEEK
BIBLE STUDY GUIDE**



THE BOOK OF PSALMS



PSALMS OF PRAISE

Introduction

Welcome to this 6-week study on the Psalms of Praise. Throughout Scripture, the Psalms have served as the hymnal and prayer book of God's people. These poetic expressions capture the full range of human emotions and experiences while directing our hearts toward worship.

In this study, we will explore six different Psalms that specifically focus on praising God. Each week, we will examine the context, meaning, and application of these powerful texts, allowing them to shape our own expressions of praise to our Creator.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

- Read the assigned scripture passages before your group meeting
- Reflect on the discussion questions and write your thoughts in the provided spaces
- Apply the lessons to your daily life using the application sections
- Share your insights with your group to enrich everyone's understanding
- Pray for God's wisdom and grace to live out these teachings

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Week 1 — The Glory of Creation [Psalm 8]

Week 2 — God's Revelation [Psalm 19]

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Psalm 8 • The Glory of Creation

Background

Psalm 8 is attributed to David and is the first hymn of praise in the Psalter. Its focus is on God's majesty as revealed in creation and humanity's special place within that creation. This psalm marvels at God's creative power while simultaneously expressing awe that such a powerful Creator would entrust humanity with stewardship over the earth.

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.
² Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
³ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?
⁵ For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
⁶ Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:
⁷ All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;
⁸ The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.
⁹ O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!





Psalm 8 • The Glory of Creation

Discussion Questions

1. What aspects of creation cause you to marvel at God's power and creativity?

2. How does David contrast the vastness of the universe with humanity's seemingly insignificant status (verses 3-4)?

3. Despite our smallness, how does God view humanity according to verses 5-8?

4. What responsibilities come with the "dominion" God has given humans over creation?

5. How does Hebrews 2:6-9 interpret this psalm in light of Jesus Christ?





Psalm 8 • The Glory of Creation

Personal Reflection & Application

How might regularly contemplating God's creation deepen your worship experience?

In what ways can you better exercise your God-given responsibility toward creation this week?

Prayer Focus

Spend time thanking God for specific aspects of His creation that reveal His character. Acknowledge His lordship over all things, including your life. Ask for wisdom to fulfill your role as a steward of His creation.





Psalm 19

God's Revelation in Creation and Scripture

Background

Psalm 19, attributed to David, celebrates God's self-revelation in two "books": the book of nature (verses 1-6) and the book of Scripture (verses 7-11). It concludes with a personal prayer for holiness (verses 12-14). This psalm beautifully connects general revelation (what can be known about God through creation) with special revelation (God's revealed Word).

Psalm 19

- The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
- ² Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
- ³ There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.
- ⁴ Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
- ⁵ Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.
- ⁶ His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
- ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.
- ⁸ The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
- ¹¹ Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.
- ¹² Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.
- ¹³ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.
- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.





Psalm 19 • God's Revelation in Creation & Scripture

Discussion Questions

1. According to verses 1-6, how does creation communicate God's glory?

2. What attributes of God's Word are described in verses 7-9, and what effect does each have?

3. How does David describe the value of God's Word in verse 10?

4. What three types of sin does David mention in verses 12-13, and what is his approach to each?

5. How does the final verse (14) serve as a fitting conclusion to this psalm about God's revelation?





Psalm 19 • God's Revelation in Creation & Scripture

Personal Reflection & Application

In what ways has God's Word proven to be more valuable than gold or sweeter than honey in your life?

How might you incorporate David's prayer in verse 14 into your daily life this week?

Prayer Focus

Thank God for revealing Himself through both creation and Scripture. Pray that His Word would transform your heart and mind. Conclude by praying verse 14 as your personal prayer.





Psalm 29 • The Voice of the Lord in Power

Background

Psalm 29, attributed to David, is a majestic hymn celebrating God's power as revealed through a thunderstorm. The sevenfold repetition of "the voice of the LORD" emphasizes the power and authority of God's word. Some scholars suggest this psalm may have been written to show the superiority of Yahweh over the Canaanite storm god Baal.

Psalm 29

- Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength.
- ² Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- ³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the Lord is upon many waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars; yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.
- ⁷ The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness; the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.
- ¹⁰ The Lord sitteth upon the flood; yea, the Lord sitteth King for ever.
- ¹¹ The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.





Psalm 29 • The Voice of the Lord in Power

Discussion Questions

1. Who is addressed in verses 1-2, and what are they called to do?

2. What seven effects of "the voice of the LORD" are described in verses 3-9?

3. How does the imagery of a storm help us understand God's character and power?

4. What is significant about God being enthroned "over the flood" (verse 10)?

5. How do strength and peace come together in the final verse?





Psalm 29 • The Voice of the Lord in Power

Personal Reflection & Application

When have you experienced God's power in your life in a way that led you to praise?

How does recognising God's sovereignty over powerful forces in nature affect how you face life's challenges?

Prayer Focus

Praise God for His power and majesty as revealed in creation. Pray for both strength and peace in your life, acknowledging that both come from the Lord who rules over all.



Week 4 Psalm 100

Entering God's Court with Thanksgiving

Overview

Psalm 100 is a brief but powerful call to worship. Designated as "A Psalm for giving thanks," it was likely used in temple worship as worshipers entered the courts. While brief, it contains profound theological truths about God's character and our relationship to Him.

Psalm 100

- Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
- ² Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
- ³ Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
- ⁵ For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.





Psalm 100 • Entering God's Court with Thanksgiving

Discussion Questions

1. What five commands are given in verses 1-4, and what do they tell us about worship?

2. What reasons for praise are given in verse 3?

3. How does the shepherd/sheep imagery (verse 3) enhance our understanding of our relationship with God?

4. According to verse 5, what three attributes of God form the basis for our thanksgiving?

5. How does this psalm call for both emotional expression and theological knowledge in worship?





Psalm 100 • Entering God's Court with Thanksgiving

Personal Reflection

In what ways can you make gratitude a more consistent part of your daily approach to God?

How might acknowledging yourself as a "sheep of his pasture" change your perspective on problems you're facing?

Prayer Focus

Begin your prayer time with specific expressions of thanksgiving and praise. Acknowledge God's goodness, steadfast love, and faithfulness in your life, and thank Him for specific ways these attributes have been demonstrated to you.





Psalm 145 •

The Greatness & Goodness of God

Overview

Psalm 145 is the last psalm attributed to David and functions as an acrostic poem in Hebrew, with each verse beginning with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It serves as a comprehensive catalog of reasons to praise God, focusing on His character, His mighty acts, and His care for all creation.

Psalm 145

- I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.
2 Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.
3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.
4 One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.
5 I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.
6 And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness.
7 They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.
8 The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.
9 The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.
10 All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.
11 They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power;
12 To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.
13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.
14 The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.
15 The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.
16 Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.
17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.
18 The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.
19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.
20 The Lord preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.
21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.





Psalm 145 • The Greatness & Goodness of God

Discussion Questions

1. What commitment does David make in verses 1-2, and what does this suggest about praise?

2. How does this psalm emphasise the importance of passing faith from one generation to the next?

3. What attributes of God's character are highlighted in verses 8-9?

4. According to verses 14-20, how does God respond to different groups of people?

5. How does this psalm balance God's transcendence (His greatness) with His immanence (His nearness)?





Psalm 145 •

The Greatness &
Goodness of God

Personal Reflection & Application

What practices could help you fulfil David's commitment to praise God "every day"?

How have you experienced God's responsiveness to your prayers as described in verses 18-19?

Prayer Focus

Use the attributes of God listed in this psalm to guide your prayer.

Thank Him for specific ways He has demonstrated His grace, mercy, patience, goodness, faithfulness, and righteousness in your life and in the world.





Psalm 150

● Let Everything that
has Breath Praise God

Overview

Psalm 150 serves as the grand finale to the Book of Psalms. It's a call to universal praise, directing all creation to praise God with all available means. This short psalm contains the word "praise" 13 times in just 6 verses, creating a crescendo effect as the entire Psalter concludes.

Psalm 150

- Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.
- ² Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.
- ³ Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.
- ⁴ Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
- ⁵ Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.
- ⁶ Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.





Psalm 150 • Let Everything that has Breath Praise God

Discussion Questions

1. According to verses 1-2, where should God be praised and why?

2. What diverse instruments are mentioned in verses 3-5, and what might this variety symbolise?

3. How does the inclusion of dance (verse 4) expand our understanding of acceptable worship?

4. What is the significance of the final command that "everything that has breath" should praise the Lord?

5. How does this psalm serve as an appropriate conclusion to the entire Book of Psalms?





Psalm 150 • Let Everything that has Breath Praise God

Personal Reflection & Application

What forms of praise come most naturally to you, and which ones might you incorporate more intentionally?

How can your daily activities become expressions of praise to God?

Prayer Focus

Express praise to God in a variety of ways during your prayer time. Consider incorporating physical expressions (raised hands, kneeling), musical expressions (singing or listening to worship music), and verbal declarations of His greatness.



Psalms of Praise

Bible Study Concluding Comments

CONCLUSION

Congratulations on completing this 6-week study on Psalms of Praise! Through these selected psalms, we've explored various dimensions of praise:

- Praise for God's creative power (Psalm 8)
- Praise for God's revelation in creation and Scripture (Psalm 19)
- Praise for God's mighty voice and sovereign power (Psalm 29)
- Praise as a response to God's goodness and faithfulness (Psalm 100)
- Praise for God's greatness and care toward His creatures (Psalm 145)
- Praise as the ultimate purpose of all creation (Psalm 150)

Our hope is that this study has enriched your understanding of praise and deepened your worship practices. May these psalms continue to shape your relationship with God and inspire a lifestyle of praise that extends beyond this study.

Suggestions for Continued Growth:

1. Memorise key verses from these psalms to recall during times of worship.
2. Incorporate a psalm of praise into your daily devotional time.
3. Journal your own expressions of praise, perhaps writing your own psalm.
4. Share what you've learned with others, becoming part of the generational chain of praise described in Psalm 145.
5. Explore additional psalms of praise (try Psalms 33, 47, 96, 103, or 113).

