

Great Commission



Baptist Church

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A Book of Praise and Devotion Adult Sunday School Curriculum

September – November 2020

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Lesson I

Date: September 6, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 138: 1-8

God's Loving Kindness

Lesson Aim: The student will be reminded of God's Kindness toward us because of His love for us and our intentional praise toward Him.

Open It

1. What characteristics do you look for in a friend?

2. Which of the Lord's characteristics do you appreciate most? Why?

Explore It

1. How did David worship the Lord?

2. What motivated David to write this song to God?

3. What reason did David give others to worship the Lord?

4. How does the Lord demonstrate His care for those He loves?

Get It

1. What can we learn about praise from this song?

2. What does this passage tell us about what God wants to do for us?

3. How has God's faithfulness to you given you courage and a sense of security?
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Apply It

1. What song of praise could you offer to God today?
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2. Whom could you tell about God's reliability and faithfulness?
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Summary:. As believers our thanks, praise and worship must be personal and intentional. David made that declaration when he said, "I will praise you... I will sing praises to you... I will worship you. Regardless of what others chose to do, David would praise God's name, keep his focus on God, His truth and His word.

David 's praise was not just lip praise, but it would encompass his entire being. He would praise God for His loving kindness (Heb. Hased = goodness, unfailing love, faithful love, steadfast love.) God's entire relationship to us is rooted in His loving kindness. After all God is love, it's part of His character.

David praised God for answered prayer. It would be good to keep a prayer request list and every time God answers – check it and give Him praise! David also praised God in this Psalm for strength, a day when all would praise God, safety from the wrath of his enemies and for the purpose God had for his life. That is a lot right there to be thankful for! So let us meditate and join in with David in thanking our God for who He is, what He's done, and what He's doing, but most of all let us praise Him for His loving kindness toward us.

Lesson II

Date: September 13, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 139: 1-12

Praises to the All-Knowing God Part 1

Lesson Aim: Life Group Members will realize that God who created each of us, knows everything about us. They will fully understand that there is nothing that we can hide from God and that we should therefore trust Him unreservedly.

Open It

1. What is something about you or your personality that is totally unique?

Explore It

1. How did David describe God's knowledge of him?

2. What "knowledge" did David feel was too lofty for him to understand?

3. How What rhetorical question did David pose to the Lord?

4. How does this passage depict God's omnipresence?

Get It

1. What does this psalm teach us about God's character?

2. What can we learn about ourselves from this passage?

3. In light of this passage, what attitude should we have toward ourselves? toward the Lord?
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4. What does this passage teach us about human life?
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Apply It

1. What gift of praise could you give to the Lord today?
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Summary: David contemplated God and wrote for us a psalm whose message can only encourage us to be in a right relationship with Him. David was encouraged by knowing that God had examined his heart and that God knew his every movement. God knows us intimately- we cannot deceive him. The verb “. search” means to examine with pain and care. Our friends see the outside, but God sees the heart. David was talking about a spiritual internal search by which God examined his heart and mind in order to know how he was thinking. God knew things about David that no one else could see or know. He knew the inner motives behind all of his action. Long before we think our thoughts, God knows them. This should be an encouragement for us to guard our thoughts carefully. We should be overwhelmed by the height and depth of God’s knowledge and be thankful that He knows us perfectly. He is surrounding us with His hand upon us to assure us that we are most significant to Him and that He is with us always. Therefore, we cannot escape Him nor should we desire to. When we face those days of doubt about His love, we need to revisit Psalm 139 and meditate upon it.

Lesson III

Date: September 20, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 139: 13-24

Praises to the All-Knowing God Part 2

Lesson Aim: Life Group Members will realize that God who created each of us knows everything about us. They will fully understand that there is nothing that we can hide from God and that we should therefore trust Him unreservedly.

Open It

1. What makes life worth living?

Explore It

1. Why did God know David so well?

2. What caused David to offer his praise to the Lord?

3. What does this psalm reveal about God's care for His people throughout their lives?

4. How did David demonstrate his loyalty to the Lord?

Get It

1. How does this psalm motivate you to praise the Lord?

2. How have you experienced God's care for you?

3. Why does the Lord test us?

4. What attitude should we have to the Lord's discipline in our lives?

Apply It

1. How could you thank God for His creation?

Summary: David goes on (vv 13-24) to let us know that God is not only all-knowing, as we saw in the first six verses of this Psalm, not only omnipresent as is described in the next six verses, but is also all powerful as described in these verses. David declared that God is present at conception and birth because we are the image of God and God has a special purpose for each person who is born. He not only formed our bodies, but He also planned and determined our days (v16). How can we ignore God when He has given us such a marvelous body and planned for us a wonderful life? After reflecting on the greatness of God, David was so humbled that He uttered a request to God that He search and test him thoroughly. He wanted God to see that he was totally dedicated and loyal to Him and determined to serve Him faithfully throughout the rest of his life. David provides an example of the relationship each of us should have with the Father and the praise we should give Him for His faithfulness to us. David closed with a prayer for God to search his heart, know his anxieties and concerns, forgive him and lead him. Our responsibility is to yield ourselves to Him daily, ponder His thoughts found in His Word (Psalm 92:5; Isa 55:8-9), and walk in the Spirit.

God thinks of us (Jer. 29:11)! Should we not think about Him and give Him praise?

Lesson IV

Date: September 27, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 140: 1-13

God’s Preserving Power

Lesson Aim: The student will learn to meet each problem with prayer to our God – the one who has the power to protect, keep and sustain us all.

Open It

1. How do you feel when someone who is dishonest or unfair succeeds?

2. When have you ever failed or lost what you wanted as a result of being honest?

Explore It

1. How are David’s enemies described?

2. What main weapon did David’s adversaries use against him?

3. What danger did David face?

4. What did David want the Lord to do for him?

5. What did David believe about God’s character?

Get It

1. What can we learn from David’s example about how to deal with our fears?

2. How What problems or disappointments threaten to discourage you?

3. In what specific way do you need the Lord's help?

4. How does this passage encourage you to put your trust in God?

5. As Christians, how should we view the unfairness we see around us?

Apply It

1. How do you plan to present your needs to the Lord this week?

2. What practical steps could you take each day to trust the Lord with your feelings and circumstances?

Summary: In the midst of David's problems with his enemies, he asked God to deliver, preserve and keep him from evil, violent, wicked men. The enemy is always on the prowl trying to harm and destroy the believer who is doing the work of the LORD. Therefore, we must always go to God in prayer, just like David for we know that God is the only one who can handle our enemies. The heart of these wicked people were consumed with evil, premeditated plans and their tongues with poisonous slanderous words – lies. The enemy will try to discredit God's servants, but, thank God, He knows how to keep and protect us while evil plots are being devised, vicious lies are being told and secret traps are being set.

David asked God to render judgment upon the wicked. Let their same schemes and tactics be used to overthrow and destroy them. Believers remember, vengeance is the LORD's. Surely, god will act on behalf of His people and they will praise Him for His protection. Amen.

Lesson V

Date: October 4, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 141: 1–10

Keep My Heart From Evil

Lesson Aim: The student will learn to pray immediately for God’s help and direction when tempted to do evil.

Open It

1. How have you experienced the influence of peer pressure?

2. When has the rebuke of a friend had a positive impact on you?

Explore It

1. What initial appeal is presented to the Lord in the introduction?

2. How did David want the Lord to protect him?

3. Why did David describe the strike of a righteous man as a "kindness"?

4. How is the destiny of the wicked described?

5. How did David voice his trust in the Lord?

Get It

1. In what specific ways would you like your desires to match David’s?

2. Why is David a good example for us to follow today?

3. On what temptation does this psalm focus?

4. What did David realize about the power of peer pressure?

Apply It

1. What practical steps could you take this week to withstand negative peer pressure?

2. In what one area of your life do you need to be held accountable?

Summary: David's cry to God is one of urgency, "make haste unto me." He's in a state of distress and relying on God to answer his prayer instantly. Have you ever been in a desperate situation and needed God to answer right away?

David desired that his prayer be acceptable and pleasing unto God, ascending like a sweet aroma. He asked the Lord to keep his heart and mouth, to protect him from the kind of evil that characterized his own enemies, not to let him imitate them nor be tempted by the flesh for he didn't want to do evil for evil. We as believers must be careful not to give Satan a foothold and not to allow evil thoughts to enter into our hearts, so we won't act on them. David said he would accept the rebuke of the righteous, for he knew they would correct in love. Saints, we should welcome constructive criticism from those who love us and practice godliness for it will be productive (fruitful) for us.

David's hope is in God- his refuge. So again, like last week, he asked God to deliver him from the wicked by allowing them to fall into their own evil devises: snares, traps, and nets. In other words, LORD, that which they have sown, now let them reap. Believers, let us regularly ask God to keep our hearts from evil, so that we will not be tempted to fall into the trap of the enemy, but bring glory to the name of our God.

Lesson VI

Date: October 11, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 142: 1-7

Refuge in the LORD

Lesson Aim: The student will be exhorted to take refuge in the LORD. The psalmist used five strong volitional requests directed towards the LORD. These requests give us insight on how to take refuge in the LORD.

Open It

1. How do people usually deal with overwhelming problems?

2. What successful techniques have you found to deal with stressful or scary situations?

Explore It

1. How did David feel about his situation?

2. Why did David refer to the Lord as his "portion"?

3. What did David expect from the Lord?

4. How did David promise to respond to God's deliverance?

Get It

1. In what specific ways should we imitate David's example in this psalm?

2. In what specific ways should we imitate David's example in this psalm?

3. What does this passage teach you about relying on the Lord in times of need?

4. In what specific areas of your life could you depend more on the Lord?

Apply It

1. What practical steps can you take this week to rely on God to help you deal with the challenges you face?

2. How do you plan to praise the Lord this week for His goodness to you?

Summary: This psalm is a *maschil* of David. The Bible Study Tools website defines the word *maschil* as, “It denotes a song enforcing some lesson of wisdom or piety, a didactic song.” The psalmist has been identified as David in the superscription. There are two passages of scripture that records David being in a cave (1 Sam. 22:1, 24:3). The writer of this lesson chose not to limit David’s *cave experience* to these two passages of scriptures because those texts do not state he was alone. In verse 4, David tells the LORD that no one is willing to acknowledge him. The verbal action for the Hebrew phrase *no man that would know me* is causative which indicates the people disassociated themselves from him. It is clear that at that time, David was alone.

Today’s passage clearly articulates that David isolated himself in a cave for the purpose of prayer and to make supplication unto the LORD. In verses 1-3, the scriptures record that he cried unto the LORD and poured out his complaint to him and declared his distress before the Almighty God. David let us know that in our times of distress and trouble, we can take refuge in the God of our Salvation. He was overwhelmed in spirit because there were people who plotted against him. They were attempting to trap him with the purpose of harming or even killing him. David acknowledges that the LORD was all-knowing and knew not only his heart but that the people were attempting to persecute him. David uses five strong volitional requests directed at the LORD. These principles encourage and exhort us to trust in the LORD. As believers, we have refuge in the LORD. David writes in verse 4, “I **looked** on my right hand, and **beheld**, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.” The English phrase *on my right hand* figuratively speaks of looking at one’s own situation and surroundings. The Hebrew word for *looked* in the verse is an imperative and the action is causative. The Hebrew word for *beheld* is the second imperative in this verse which means *to see*. Simply stated, David took the initiative to ask the LORD to look at his circumstance and pointed out to the LORD that no man cared for his soul. David writes in verse 6, “**Attend** unto my cry; for I am brought very low: **deliver me** from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.” The third and fourth imperatives are the words *attend* and *deliver me*. David makes two strong volitional requests for the LORD to incline His ears to him and to snatch him out of his current situation. The psalmist writes in verse 7, “**Bring** my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.” The fifth imperative is the word *bring* and the verbal action is causative for the Hebrew verb. David closes this psalm with a strong volitional request for the LORD to lead him out of this situation. In doing so, David will give all the glory and honor to the True and Living God of Israel.

Lesson VII

Date: October 18, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 143: 1-12

A Prayer for Deliverance

Lesson Aim: This lesson will assure each one that they have God's protection and deliverance in the face of trials included in this life, if they request his wisdom in faith and then listen carefully for his voice.

Open It

1. Who was the best teacher you ever had, and why?

2. In your opinion what makes a good teacher?

Explore It

1. What did David admit about his own character?

2. On what did David want the Lord to focus His attention?

3. What strategy did David use to combat his own fears?

4. What kind of future did the psalm writer expect without the Lord's help?

Get It

1. What can we learn from David's example about how to deal with our fears and problems?

2. What strategies should we use to combat feelings of doubt or discouragement?

3. How can we cultivate a servant attitude?

4. How does God's Spirit lead us?
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Apply It

1. In what practical ways could you sensitize yourself to God's Spirit?
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2. What do you want to remember the next time you feel hopeless or depressed?
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Summary: In this psalm, David presents many requests to the Lord, all of which may be summarized in two prayers: "Hear me" (vv1-6) and "Answer me" (7-12). This prayer is a good example for us to follow. In the first halves (1-), David lays out his problem to the Lord, crying out to Him to hear and answer. In the second half (vv7=12) he presents his prayer, repeatedly crying out to God to answer him and to teach him to do His will before it is too late.

David focused on God's character of righteous, faithful to his covenant and promises, and his holiness. After he focused on the character of God, David focused on his needs and told the Lord what he was enduring because of his enemies. He was open and honest about his feelings and what he was asking God to do for him. David knew that his God was just and that he could make his request known to Him.

Although David was God's servant (vv2,12) and was a man after God's heart (1 Sam 13:14), God allowed David to be pushed to the brink, where he despaired of life itself. We must remember that being one of God's chosen leaders, does not exempt us from severe trials. But here, the Psalmist teaches us that a heartfelt, humble, believing, obedient prayer is how to respond when you face severe trials.

David also teaches us that we will not pray as we ought unless we recognize our weakness and need, and therefore, our total dependence on God. In (vs 8-12). David desired that the loyal love of God lead him in the way that he should go. Second, he wanted to be rescued from his enemies. Third, he wanted to be taught by the Spirit of God. And fourth, David wanted to be preserved alive from his enemies by God's righteousness and love. He prays that God teach him his ways so that he might be not just a hearer of the word, but also a doer (James 1:22)

Most of all David teaches us that there is nothing wrong with pleading with God for quick relief from our trials but in our desperate cries for relief, we must not lose focus of the greater purpose to come to know God better. Don't waste your trials! Let it drive you to God in prayer.

Lesson VIII

Date: October 25, 2020

Lesson Scriptures Psalm 144: 1-15

A Mighty Fortress

Lesson Aim: Students are encouraged to praise God and recognizes His present in our life, for his power and protection as he prepares us for the battles we will face.

Open It

1. Why do you think many people struggle with low self-esteem?

2. In your view what's most difficult about maintaining a healthy self-image?

Explore It

1. What gifts from God does David celebrate in the introduction?

2. What did the psalm writer recognize about his own status?

3. How did David want the Lord to deliver him?

4. What vow did the psalm writer make to the Lord?

5. What imagery did the psalm writer use to celebrate God's blessings?

6. To whom does the Lord give His blessings?

Get It

1. What does this passage reveal to us about the character of God?

2. How do you need the Lord to heal or strengthen your self-image?

3. What inspires you to offer your praise to God?

4. What gifts from God do you enjoy now?

Apply It

1. In What motivates you to give your praise to God today?

2. What steps could you begin to take to open up the areas of your life that you have held back from the Lord?

Summary: David has been here before as in (psalm 18:1-50). I reminded of a movie title “**Déjà vu**” film made in 2006 **science fiction** starring Denzel Washington, using a program called “Snow White” to go back in time four days before the event to bring about a change to the circumstance before it happen. Well, before I get too far and lose you there will be times in life we will have our (Deja vu) battles. [David says I will sing a New Song with a greater look and purpose that’s going to affect the present and the future not in ourselves but with the help of the LORD, because we are nothing, life is short. David reminds us in verse 4 that it is "like a breath" and that our "days are like a passing shadow." James says that our life is "like the morning vapour, it's here a little while, then it's gone" (James 4:14). Because life is short, live for God while you have the time. Don't waste your life by selecting an inferior purpose that has no lasting value. Only God can make your life worthwhile, purposeful, and meaningful]. **[Life Application Bible Notes].**

{God loves us and equips us for what lies ahead. God does not always explain how He prepares you, so accept His disciplines by faith. David fought a lion and a bear before God let him fight a giant. Each morning, put on the whole armor of God and be ready for the trumpet call (Eph. 6:10–18). So, let God help you *in the battle* (vv. 5–8). God’s hand is there to strengthen and deliver you, so do not be afraid to engage the enemy. You are fighting the Lord’s battles; He will not abandon you (2 Chron. 20:14–19). Sing God’s praises *after the battle* (vv. 9–15). Thank Him for all He has done for you personally (vv. 9–11), for your family (v. 12), and for your nation (vv. 13–15).} **{With the Word Bible Commentary}**

Lesson IX

Date: November 1, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 146: 1-10

Trust in the LORD

Lesson Aim: The student will learn not put your faith in humans, who will soon die. Rather, trust the Lord, who created the universe and who defends the oppressed, feeds the hungry, restores sight to the blind, and protects the helpless.

Open It

1. Why do you think others allow people and circumstances to affect their praise?

Explore It

1. What is the psalmist calling others to do?

2. What does the psalmist promise to do?

3. Who does the psalmist instruct us not to trust?

4. Which verse gives us the idea of God' faithfulness?

Get It

1. How does this passage challenge us to worship?

2. How has the Lord demonstrated His love for you?

3. What responsibility do we have to tell others about what God has done for us?
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Apply It

1. What specific steps could you take this week to add some creativity and enthusiasm to your worship of the Lord?
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Summary: I remember back in the day when the old folks use to say, *“You better praise the LORD while you have a chance.”* The psalmist encourages us, do not trust influential people because they die, and their thoughts die with them. Instead of trusting in people, we should trust in the Lord, the God of Jacob. The name *God of Jacob* “brings to mind all that God did to help this patriarch.” The God of Jacob is the *Lord* (Jehovah, Yahweh), the only true and living God. He is the covenant-keeping God who is characterized by His unfailing love. We should place our hope in Him and in Him alone.

Praise and trust in the LORD God who lives and rules forever. No dictator, prime minister, president, general, admiral, or any influential or leading person can compete with Him. Yahweh Messiah is Israel’s eternal king, and according to (Zechariah 14.9) he will reign as King over all the earth. Happy is the person who trusts the God of Jacob, Yahweh Elohim, because the LORD is the creator, protector, and provider. He created the heaven, the earth, the seas, and all creatures. He is faithful, performs justice, gives food, frees prisoners, gives sight, encourages the discouraged, loves the righteous, protects strangers, supports the fatherless and widows, and thwarts the way of the wicked. Yahweh, the God of Zion, our God, will reign forever, so praise the LORD. Trust the Lord, the God of Jacob: Place your hope in Him.

Lesson X

Date: November 8, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 147: 1-20

Singing Praises to the LORD

Lesson Aim: Readers of this psalm want have any doubt or guessing what this psalm is all about, the psalmist specific focuses on who and why **praising the LORD** is so important.

Open It

1. When has another person encouraged you in your faith?

2. How did your mother reassure you after you got in trouble?

Explore It

1. What specific words of instruction are given to God's followers?

2. How does God demonstrate His love for the needy?

3. What does God desire from His people?

4. Whom does God show His word to?

Get It

1. What does this psalm tell us about the activities of God?

2. How can encourage someone who has experienced a broken heart?

3. How can you reverently and worshipfully fear the LORD?

4. Give some reasons why we should praise the LORD??
-

Apply It

1. What is one thing you could do to thank the Lord for His many blessings?
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Summary: Only those who have seen their cities and homes ravaged by war can identify with the Jewish people's agony when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C. Jeremiah, who is remembered as the weeping prophet, attempted to describe their unbearable grief with the heart-wrenching cry, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me..." (Lam. 1:12).

Imagine, then, the unspeakable joy of those who celebrated the rebuilding of the devastated city over a century later. Scripture records that the people's exhilaration was so great "that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off" (Neh. 12:43). Psalm 147 was most likely written for that jubilant occasion. On this special day, God's people acknowledged the Lord's goodness to them and praised Him for it.

Primary, this psalmist calls for God's chosen people Israel to praise him since the nation (the descendants of Jacob) was special to God because he has done so much for them. The psalmist mentions in this text at least six things he did for them. (1) He rebuilds Jerusalem, (2) and brings back the exiles (3) He fortifies the gates and (4) sends peace across the nation. (5) He supplies the finest wheat for food. (6) He gives his law to Israel alone. The Psalmist paints a great picture of who God is as Creator of the Universe, what our God has done in Creation and what he can and will do for his Creatures. Now any individual who follows God is just as special to him. In fact, the Bible says that the real nation of Israel is not a specific people or geographic place but the community of all who believe in and obey **God** (see Galatians 3:28, 29).

Lesson XI

Date: November 15, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 148: 1- 14

Praise from the Heavens

Lesson Aim: The student will learn about the meaning of the Hebrew word for *praise*. The psalmist used the Hebrew word for *praise* ten times in this psalm and gives us application for each occurrence.

Open It

1. How do you feel about creation?

2. Have we tried to keep what God has created or have we tried to destroy creation?

Explore It

1. Whom do the psalm writer call to praise the LORD?

2. Who made a decree in this psalm?

3. How does the psalmist describe the LORD's name?

4. Who and what does God exalts?

Get It

1. Why does God want his creation to worship Him and no one else?

2. How can you encourage someone to publicly worship our LORD?
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Apply It

1. What steps could you take this week to see the beauty of God's creation?
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Summary: An African American gospel recording artist and pastor, William Murphy, released a song on Shekinah Glory in 2005 titled, "Praise Is What I Do". He recorded these words in his solo, "*Praise is what I do. When I want to be close to you. I lift my hands in praise. Praise is who I am. I will praise him while I can. I'll bless, him at, all times.*" The words of this song help us understand the psalmist in Psalm 48. The words *praise ye the LORD, praise him, praise ye him* is recorded ten times as an intensified imperative in this psalm. All of the praises are directed towards Yahweh, also pronounced as Jehovah. The key to understanding this passage is knowing what the word **praise** means in this context. The King James Version Bible translated the English word *praise* from the Hebrew verb *hala* which means *to shout both in joy and terror*. As believers, we shout for joy because of all his wonderful works and benefits (Psalm 103). Secondly, we praise the LORD because we fear him (Proverbs 1:7). This fear is more than mere reverence. The Hebrew word *yirah* is used by Solomon which means *reverence, piety, and terror*. The child of God can address the LORD as Father because we have a covenantal and loving relationship with him through His Son Jesus Christ. This is why we praise Him. However, the LORD is not to be mocked and placed second to none (Exodus 20:3; Galatians 6:7). All of God's creation is instructed to praise Him.

The psalmist writes in verse 1, "**Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD** from the heavens: **praise him** in the heights." The heavens which includes the Earth's sky and universe are instructed to praise ye the LORD. The psalmist writes in verse 2, "**Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.** All the angelic creatures praise and fear the LORD (Isaiah 6:2-3; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 4:6-9). The psalmist writes in verse 3, "**Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.**" The stars include the Sun and other objects that give off lights in the universe. The psalmist writes in verse 4, "**Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.**" The heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1). The psalmist writes in verse 7, "**Praise the LORD** from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:" Even the sea creatures of the deep are instructed to praise the LORD. The psalmist writes in verse 14, "He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. **Praise ye the LORD.**" The psalmist used a different word for the praise for the Hebrew phrase *for the praise of all his saints* which means *a song of praises*. Lastly, all the children of the Most High God are instructed to praise ye the LORD.

Lesson XII

Date: November 22, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 149: 1-9

Rejoice in the King

Lesson Aim: The student will be encouraged to rejoice in the King. The psalmist instructed believers to praise the LORD in the sanctuary, to praise the LORD because of the advantage given to us, and to praise the LORD because of the assignment he has given every believer.

Open It

1. What was your idea of worship when you were a child?

Explore It

1. How does the Lord meet the needs of His people?

2. How does the psalmist describe the high praises of God?

3. What was the purpose of the two-edged sword?

Get It

1. Why does the psalmist suggest that we balance our songs in worship?

2. Should our worship be entertaining or enriching? Why?

3. Why do you think Satan wants to distract you from true worship?

Apply It

1. What can you do this week to mature your worship with the LORD?
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Summary: The title of this week's lesson is *Rejoice in the King*. As believers, we have a lot to rejoice about even in a time of crisis. Jehovah, who is our Father, blesses us daily with His steadfast love and mercy (Lamentation 3:22-23). King David writes, "The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." In that passage, David declares that the LORD will rule in the midst of our enemies. David identifies *the King* as the LORD in Psalm 145. The prophet Jeremiah and King David both gives us reason to rejoice in the King of kings and Lord of lords. In today's lesson, the psalmist is not identified, and the reader is not given any additional historical information. In this section, the psalmist uses three imperatives that are directed towards the children of God to praise and sing unto the LORD. The writer of this lesson summarized this psalm into three main points to help the reader understand this psalm.

The first point describes the activity within the *Assembly of God*. The psalmist writes in verse 1, "**Praise ye** the LORD. **Sing** unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints." The opening words of verse 1 sets the tone for this psalm. The first and fourth words in verse 1 in the King James Version Bible (KJV) are the English words *praise* and *sing*. Both words are intensified commands directed towards the assembly of saints. The English word for *saints* in the KJV was translated from the Hebrew word *chasid* which means *a pious man* and/or *the godly*. The children of God are instructed to praise and sing a new song in the assembly of God. The second point emphasizes that we have an *Advantage because of God*. According to Merriam-Webster online dictionary, the second definition for the word advantage is "a factor or circumstance of benefit to its possessor." In verse 4, the psalmist declares two things about the LORD. The first thing is that the LORD takes delight in his people. The Hebrew word for *delight* means to be pleased with and to accept favorably. The second thing the psalmist declares is that the LORD will beautify (crown) the humble with salvation. As a result, the godly (saints) are encouraged to be joyful and told to sing for joy on their beds. The third and last point that the psalmist declares to us is that we have an *Assignment from God*. The psalmist writes in verse 9, "To execute upon them the judgment written: this honor has all his saints. **Praise ye the LORD.**" The children of God were given the assignment to exercise vengeance upon the people and punishment upon the people and their kings. Their job was to bring judgment upon the heathen. The godly have this honor and are instructed to praise ye the LORD. As believers, we are privileged to serve the True and Living God. We should Praise ye the LORD for this honor.

Lesson XIII

Date: November 29, 2020

Lesson Scriptures: Psalm 150: 1-6

Praise God's Mighty Acts

Lesson Aim: The student will learn about the meaning and application of praise in this psalm. The psalmist declared that everyone who has breath is commanded to praise the LORD.

Open It

1. How do you celebrate an important event?

Explore It

1. What is the firmament of his power?

2. What are his mighty acts?

3. Whom do the psalmist ask to praise God?

Get It

1. How do these passages encourage you to improve your worship of God?

2. What has the LORD done in your life that will cause you to praise Him?

3. How does this psalm give you hope in your crisis?

Apply It

2. What can you do this week to declare God's glory?
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Summary: Psalm 150 is the last psalm in the psalter. Recall that the psalter is the collection of psalms. There are numerous psalms that exhort and instruct the believer to praise the LORD. The believer is instructed to praise God regardless of circumstances (Hebrews 13:15). The psalmist exhorts the godly to praise the LORD twelve times in this psalm. In each occurrence, the King James Version Bible translated the English word *praise* from the Hebrew verb *hala* which means *to shout both in joy and terror*. The psalmist gives us four biblical principles about praising the LORD.

The first biblical principle is found in verse 1. The psalmist exhorts the believers three times in this verse. He writes, “**Praise ye the LORD. Praise God** in his sanctuary: **praise him** in the firmament of his power. Each reference of praise in the verse is directed to the LORD God. The first occurrence in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) with the name LORD God is found in Genesis 2:4. He is the Creator of all creation including the heavens and earth. The psalmist instructs us to *Praise the LORD in his Sanctuary*. The English word *sanctuary* was translated from the Hebrew noun *qodesh* which means a *sacred place or thing*. It is not a mere concept or idea but speaks of a physical place. This physical place for believers is the house of God. The second biblical principle is found in verse 2. The psalmist exhorts the believers to *Praise the LORD for his Mighty Acts*. He writes, “**Praise him** for his mighty acts: **praise him** according to his excellent greatness.” The LORD’s mighty acts are described in Creation and His Redemption of mankind. This is why we should praise the LORD. His mighty acts and love towards mankind is matchless. The third biblical principle is found in verses 3 - 5. The psalmist exhorts the believers to *Praise the LORD with Musical Instruments*. He writes in verses 3 - 5, “**Praise him** with the sound of the trumpet: **praise him** with the psaltery and harp.” The psalmist writes in verse 4, “**Praise him** with the timbrel and dance: **praise him** with stringed instruments and organs.” The psalmist writes in verse 5, “**Praise him** upon the loud cymbals: **praise him** upon the high-sounding cymbals.” Musical instruments can be used to glorify the LORD. The psalms were sung by the children of God and were normally accompanied by musical instruments. The fourth and last biblical principle is found in verse 6. The psalmist writes in verse 6, “Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. **Praise ye the LORD.**” The psalmist declares that *Praising the LORD should be done by Everyone*. This is not limited to the godly. The believer is instructed to declare the glory of the LORD among the heathen (Psalm 96:3). The Israelites were called to be a light unto the nations, and the church is called to let their light shine before men (Isaiah 42:5-7; Matthew 5:16).

Lesson Aims, Summaries by Rev. Joseph Ellzey Jr. B.S., Earline Franklin, Rev. Terrence Howard TH.M., Annette Brown, Dip. TH., and Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma (SBI) 2020

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