

## LESSON 5

OCTOBER 3, 2021

### UNIT II. CALLED TO PRAISE GOD

#### “ONLY YOU”

**DEVOTIONAL READING:** Psalm 66:1-7

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 100

**PRINT PASSAGE:** Psalm 100:1-5

#### KEY VERSE

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. (Psalm 100:3, KJV)

.....  
Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (Psalm 100:3, NIV)

#### LESSON AIMS

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Understand why and how God is to be worshipped, as found in Psalm 100.
- Appreciate that God is worthy to be praised.
- Create a psalm of praise for the Lord.

#### KEY TERMS

**Enter (verse 4)**—Hebrew: *bo* (bo): to come, come in, go in, go.

**Everlasting (verse 5)**—Hebrew: *olam* (o-lawm’): long duration; antiquity; futurity; “forever” (NIV).

**Gladness (verse 2)**—Hebrew: *simchah* (sim-khaw’): joy; gladness; mirth.

**Know (verse 3)**—Hebrew: *yada* (yaw-dah’): to know, acknowledge.

**Praise (verse 4)**—Hebrew: *tehillah* (teh-hil-law’): praise; song of praise; adoration.

**Serve (verse 2)**—Hebrew: *abad* (aw-bad’): to work, serve; “worship” (NIV).

#### PREPARING THE LESSON

- Refer to the *Townsend Press SS Commentary Teacher’s Edition* for an additional lesson plan—with word studies, insights on teaching adults, learner matrices, etc.
- Review last week’s student assignments (“Your Life” and Your World!).
- Thoroughly review your student book for your adult or young adult class.

#### WHY THIS LESSON MATTERS

Life provides us with many opportunities to praise and find delight in people and things. How do we decide what has more value and is more worthy of our praise? Psalm 100 emphasizes that God is the worthy object of humanity’s praise and joy.

#### THE LESSON IN FOCUS

Each person is uniquely created and gifted by God. Desires, likes, and dislikes are as unique as the individuals who hold them. Two people can be born and raised in the same household yet have completely opposite tastes from their siblings. Even more intriguing is that researchers have noted

that multiple-birth siblings (twins, triplets, etc.), fraternal or identical, do not always have similar traits, likes, or preferences. This points to the unique design of every living soul. Despite bloodlines, physical re- semblance, nature, or nurture, every single person is uniquely created in the image of God with a divinely ordained destiny and purpose. Whether you know it or believe it (or not), the highest purpose of your life is to bring glory to God. Even though we worship God in community, God saves each soul as an individual. Everyone will stand and give account to Him for the deeds of his/her own life. No one can be saved without knowing God for themselves. Your praise belongs to you. You must speak your own prayers. Your testimony must be your own. The phrasing might be the same or similar, but each word must rise from within your own heart. God is listening to hear your personal praise for what He has done for you.

### **THE LESSON IN CONTEXT**

Psalms 95–100 can be described as the “kingship psalms.” These psalms are songs that focus upon Yahweh as the ultimate reality and ruler of all. God honored Israel’s demand for “a king to govern [them], like other nations” (1 Samuel 8:5, NRSV) and established a monarchy in the nation—yet, it is clear in these psalms and other portions of Scripture that God Himself always remained the true King of His people. In this series of psalms, God is declared King because He continues to reign (see 97:1; 99:1), He has ownership of the world because He created it (95:5; 96:5; 100:3), and He is hailed as sovereign with the joyous shouts of all creation (see 95:1; 98:4; 100:1). In a marvelous way, Psalm 100 adds that the King is, in truth, the Shepherd of His people (verse 3). The Hebrew construction of verse 3 seems to have been chosen for its lyrical sound—Hoo Ah-SAN-oo We-LO AH-nan-oo (“He accomplishes, not us”). The pleasant-sounding phrase is a subtle assertion of God’s superiority over humanity, leading to the two alternative readings. They are (1) “It is he that made us, and we are his,” and (2) “It is he that made us, and not we ourselves.” The book of Psalms also identifies another characteristic that distinguishes God from other kings: it is His “steadfast love” (e.g., Psalms 25:6- 7, 10; 31:7, 16, 21; 100:5). The implication is that this is a covenant-based love that endures despite lapses on the part of His people (see Psalm 89:30-37).

### **OPENING INQUIRY (Choose from the questions below.)**

1. What expressions of personal praise do you observe in church worship?
2. Which ones do you participate in and enjoy?
3. Which expressions of praise, if any, cause you to feel uncomfortable?

### **INSIGHTS**

Christians acknowledge God as the ultimate authority in their lives. We are grateful for the sacrifice of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to keep us connected to our God. Our confidence in the love of God is affirmed in the Scriptures, but personalized and proven by the privilege of a daily experience with God through prayer, meditation, worship, and fellowship. As we strive to honor God with living holy lives, we recognize that God’s character, alone, is our “measuring stick” of what is truly good. We are never to judge ourselves as pleasing to God based on someone else’s conduct.

### **EXPLORATION**

All Christians should feel a sense of obligation to God for all that He has done in our lives and in the world, especially when considering the process of redemption. We experience the love of Yahweh as changeless and everlasting. This is far different from the fickleness characterizing

human love. However, the more we explore and experience the joy of God's love the better we can establish and appreciate human relationships.

## **ADDITIONAL EXPOSITORY INSIGHTS FOR THE TEACHER**

### **COMMENTARY ON PSALM 100:1-3**

#### **KJV**

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.

#### **NIV**

SHOUT FOR joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**2** *Worship* the LORD with *gladness*; come before him with joyful songs.

**3** *Know* that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Verses 1-3 speak of a joyful procession. This call to worship could have been originally offered by a choir outside the Temple gates. It is an open call for “all” to celebrate, worship, and make a joyful noise unto the Lord. All the inhabitants of the earth are summoned to worship the Lord. This psalm emphasizes that those who worship must have a knowledge of God. They must know and recognize that the Lord is God, Creator, and Shepherd of His people. Such knowledge of God leads to joyful praise, gladness, and singing. Knowledge of God, which comes through His Word, strengthens our relationship with God and our worship of God. The exhortation “make a joyful noise” is a translation of the Hebrew word *rua*. It means “to raise a shout, give a blast.” It is most often used with the thought of sounding an alarm, particularly the sounding of an alarm to announce the arrival of and allegiance to a king—like the phrase “long live the king.” In this psalm, the words worship and serve are used unilaterally. We serve the Lord through our worship and we worship the Lord through our service—the two are forever intertwined. The writer knew this in his challenge. The writer also understood that believers minister to the Lord with joyful praise. A joyful heart is one that understands that it is made by God, saved by God, and possessed by God. The joyful worshipper recognizes God as both provider and protector. Understanding who God is allows believers to worship God freely, honestly, and openly without reservation or doubt.

## **DISCUSSION STARTERS**

*(Please review the appropriate student book's related biblical exposition section.)*

### **Adult Question:**

*Does knowing God require giving up comfort in life? Explain.*

### **Young Adult Questions:**

*(1) Recall and share a time when you have seen people outside of a church setting give God praise for a particular victory or blessing in their lives. When or where have you been most surprised to hear someone giving God praise?*

*(2) Think about John 1:3 (NIV): "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." How should this verse impact your attitude toward God? What is*

*the danger of having a false understanding of who God is? How does knowing God impact your faith and your prayer life?*

## COMMENTARY ON PSALM 100:4-5

### KJV

**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.

### NIV

**4** Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with *praise*; give thanks to him and praise his name.

**5** For the LORD is good and his love endures *forever*; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Verses 4-5 speak of a thankful entry. This second call to worship could have been offered by a choir within the Temple. The worshippers, approaching the gates, were invited to continue their worship by entering the gates and then the courts. The essentials of worship are thus thanksgiving, praise, prayer, and a knowledge of God's character. True worshippers recognize the Lord's attributes-goodness, love, and faithfulness. This repeated call to worship pushes the soul to a wholehearted acknowledgment of God's supreme goodness with an open acknowledgment of the worshipper's respective place in the universe relative to that of the great "I Am." This is a call for authentic worship-real and relevant-which depends on nothing the worshipper has or has not done. God's enduring goodness and love are a function of His free, unconditional love for humanity. God extends His love without condition or merit. Despite the sinful human condition, God demonstrated His love and committed Christ to pardon human sin (see John 3:16). This love of God's is everlasting from eternity to eternity-as is God. While humanity has routinely proven to be faithless and unfaithful, God's faithfulness has continued through all generations (verse 5b). As God's people, we are benefactors of His spiritual and material blessings-grace and mercy, as well as His cattle on a thousand hills (see Psalm 50:10), and His silver and gold (see Haggai 2:8). We rejoice because of His mercies that spare us from utter destruction (see Lamentations 3:22). Our understanding of God's nature and goodness toward us should move us to share the Good News (see Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8): that God is the source of every blessing, including life itself (see James 1:17). This faithful, unconditional love is "the truth" that endures through all generations. One may run from God's love, but no one can hide from it. Thus, we rejoice, boastfully, because of our God, our Lord, and our Savior.

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

*(Please review the appropriate student book's related biblical exposition section.)*

### Adult Question:

*Mercy is compassion toward those whom you have the power to harm or right to punish. Since you have so freely received God's mercy, how can you share that mercy with others?*

### Young Adult Questions:

*What are some ways that a thankful worshipper might express his or her gratitude to God? How do you demonstrate your own gratitude for God's goodness? Is it possible to have true gratitude that doesn't express itself?*

## **LIFE APPLICATION**

### **Refer to Adult Book**

*(See student lesson's "Your Life" section.)*

—Take a personal assessment of your life and your relationship with God. Are you ever shy about worshipping God? Begin with worshipping God privately; the practice will spill over into your public worship.

See student lesson's "Your World!" section.)

—Create an opportunity to share the message of Jesus with someone you know. Tell the person of the Lord's goodness and what He has done for you.

### **Refer to Young Adult Book**

*(See student lesson's "Your Life" section.)*

—Very often, the only difference between a good day and a bad one is what you think about. If you focus only on the things that are wrong and missing from your life, then you might be tempted to slip into despair. Lift your mood and change your life by starting and ending each day with a meditation on the good things that God has done for you. Count your daily blessings, especially the ones you might take for granted. Start today.

*(See student lesson's "Your World!" section.)*

—Only a great and mighty God could create a world like this one and keep it going. You give God far less credit and praise than He deserves when you rush through your day without paying attention to the details of your world. See the uniqueness of every human face. Savor the flavor of the food you eat. Feel the radiance of the sun. Look at the beauty of the sky. Breathe. Laugh. Recognize God's masterpiece and give Him praise.

## **NEXT WEEK'S LESSON**

The lesson topic for Sunday, October 10, 2021, is "Ball of Confusion." The Devotional Reading text is Deuteronomy 10:17-21, the Background Scripture text is Psalm 9; Ecclesiastes 3:16-22, and the Printed Text is Psalm 9:1-12.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we desire to strengthen our relationship with You—our prayer life, our walk, our witness, and our worship. We honor You as the mastermind of the universe and thank You for saving and sustaining us. With the totality of our being, we honor You with the very best praise we can render, thanking You for all that You are and all You have done for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **HOME DAILY READINGS**

### **PRAISE GOD FOR JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**

*(October 4-10, 2021)*

**MONDAY, October 4: "Where Is Justice?" (Ecclesiastes 3:16-22)**

**TUESDAY, October 5: "A Prayer for Justice" (Psalm 7:8-17)**

**WEDNESDAY, October 6: "Let Justice Roll Down" (Amos 5:21-25)**

**THURSDAY, October 7: “God’s Servant Proclaims Justice” (Matthew 12:14-21)**

**FRIDAY, October 8: “God Has Executed Judgment” (Psalm 9:13-20)**

**SATURDAY, October 9: “Jesus Pronounces Release and Recovery” (Luke 4:14-21)**

**SUNDAY, October 10: “God Judges with Righteousness” (Psalm 9:1-12)**