

LESSON 12

November 17, 2024

Unit III: Psalms of Thanksgiving and Praise

A Gratitude Attitude

DEVOTIONAL READING: Ephesians 5:1-2, 15-20

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Psalm 100

PRINT PASSAGE: Psalm 100:1-5

KEY VERSE

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. (Psalm 100:4, KJV)

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Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (Psalm 100:4, NIV)

Lesson Aims

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Validate the psalmist's reasons for offering grateful praise.
- Personalize God's care for you based on His acts of faithfulness in Israel's salvation history.
- Interpret a song or hymn of thanksgiving that celebrates God's faithfulness.

*Key Terms

Endureth (verse 5)—Greek: *hupomeno* (hoop-om-en'-o): to stay behind, await (i.e., remain); figuratively, to undergo (i.e., bear [trials], have fortitude, persevere; abide, take patiently, suffer, tarry behind); "endures" (NIV).

Gladness (verse 2)—Hebrew: *simchab* (sim-khaw'): joy, mirth; exceeding joy; joyfulness; pleasure; rejoicing.

Joy(ful) (verse 1)—Hebrew: *sameach* (saw-may'-akh): glad(ness); merry, merry-hearted.

Mercy (verse 5)—Hebrew: *racham* (rakh'-am): compassion; grace; "love" (NIV).

Truth (verse 5)—Hebrew: *emetb* (eh'-meth): firmness, "faithfulness" (NIV); the Hebrew word is made up of three Hebrew letters: *aleph, mem, tav* (אמת)—which is also the first letter, the middle letter, and the last letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet. Essentially, truth is the beginning and the end and everything in between.

*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)



The Biblical Context

Psalm 100 is the only psalm expressly called “a psalm for giving thanks.” This psalm is an embodiment of gratitude. Christians have felt this for generations, as many poets have turned it into verse, and it has been sung to several well-known tunes. Psalm 100 is also known as “Old Hundredth.” The first line of the psalm reads, “All people that dwell on earth, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.” Isaac Watts also wrote a hymn based on Psalm 100, which begins with the line, “Before Jehovah’s awful throne, Ye nations, bow with sacred joy; Know that the Lord is God.” The psalm is easy to understand and contains seven significant imperatives, along with two explanations of why we should give thanks. The first explanation is halfway through the psalm, and the second is at the end. Psalm 100 includes (1) a statement of how to give thanks, (2) an explanation of why God’s people must give thanks, (3) an invitation to give thanks, and (4) a final great expression of praise or thanksgiving.

Introduction

Psalm 100 beckons us to individual and corporate worship, a joyful celebration where we express our gratitude and delight in God’s goodness through exuberant singing and praise. By harmonizing our voices in worship, we amplify God’s name as a unified body and express our intimate relationship with the Creator. The state of our hearts is essential in worship, and while outward forms such as singing and liturgy are significant, true worship begins from within, and the corporate gathering amplifies it. Our gratitude leads us to praise and obey God’s Word, and the work of God in our hearts compels us to live in alignment with it. Despite the current decline in church attendance, corporate worship remains a vital pillar of our faith. It fosters a profound sense of belonging and accountability and embarks us on a shared faith journey. We uplift and strengthen one another through worship, teaching, and fellowship. Our worship also powerfully testifies to the world about God’s greatness and grace. In conclusion, corporate worship is about rituals and hearts united in praise. Despite shifting attendance patterns, gathering to worship God remains crucial.

ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT

The Invitation to Worship

(Psalm 100:1-4)

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.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

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.

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

Psalm 100 is a truly inspiring passage that invites us to worship God with all our hearts and express our gratitude for His goodness. This passage calls us to lift our voices in joyful praise and serve God with gladness, reminding us that our worship should be both inward and outward. In **verse 1**, we are commanded to shout joyfully to the Lord and invite the whole earth to unite in worship. This reminds us that our worship should not be limited to ourselves but should extend to all of God's creation. **Verse 2** calls us to joyful service and a hearty attitude, reminding us that our worship should not just be about singing, but also about serving others and having a positive outlook on life. **Verse 3** acknowledges God's sovereignty and our dependence on Him. The imagery of sheep reminds us of our need for guidance, care, and protection. Knowing that God is always watching over us brings us comfort and peace. Lastly, **verse 4** encourages us to approach God's presence with gratitude and praise. This reminds us that we should always be thankful for God's blessings and constantly give Him the praise and honor He deserves. It is a powerful reminder that worship is not just a duty to fulfill but, rather, is a privilege to embrace. It reminds us that our worship should be characterized by joy, gratitude, and service to others. When we worship God in this way, we can experience His presence and blessings in our lives like never before.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Can we lift up joyful praise to God in the midst of challenging times? Explain.

The Motivation for Worship (*Psalm 100:5*)

KJV

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

NIV

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

Psalm 100:5 is a powerful verse that offers deep insights into God's character and His ongoing relationship with humanity. The passage highlights three key attributes of God: His goodness, His everlasting mercy, and His unchanging truth. First, the text emphasizes the foundational nature of God's goodness. He is inherently good, just, and righteous, and this goodness is an essential part of His nature. Second, the passage speaks of God's boundless and eternal mercy. His compassion and forgiveness are always available to us, regardless of our circumstances or failures. This enduring mercy extends across generations, covering our past, present, and future. Lastly, the text emphasizes the unchanging nature of God's truth. His promises are reliable and everlasting, and we can build our lives on this unshakable foundation. Despite the shifts and changes of human culture and history, God's faithfulness remains constant. In summary, **verse 5** invites us to celebrate God's goodness, rely on His everlasting mercy, and trust in His unchanging truth. God's character transcends time, offering hope and comfort to every generation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How does this inspire you to reevaluate your commitment to praise and worship God?

A Closing Thought

Psalm 100 teaches us that worship and thanksgiving are intertwined. We draw closer to Him by expressing our gratitude, acknowledging God's greatness, and making a joyful noise. Let's cultivate a gratitude habit and celebrate our faithful God's goodness! Remember that it's not about our voices' perfection but our hearts' sincerity. May our worship please the One who deserves all honor and praise.

Your Life

The main idea of Psalm 100 is to express gratitude. The psalmist reminds us that God is good, His love is unfailing, and His faithfulness endures forever. Being thankful is not just a one-time event but a way of life. We are encouraged to approach God with gratitude regularly. It is essential to take a moment each day to thank God for the blessings in our lives, no matter how big or small. We can cultivate a positive and grateful mindset by making thankfulness a habit.

Your World!

Psalm 100 reminds us that sharing our gratitude and praise with others is essential. Our thankfulness and praise can significantly impact those around us as we testify to God's goodness and faithfulness.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for guiding us through our study of Your holy Word. May the words we have pondered continue to shape our lives, drawing us closer to You with praise and thanksgiving all the more. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Conclusion

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

As you prepare for next week's lesson on Psalm 139:1-12, take time to reflect on the imagery of God's being everywhere, with Him knowing us in the depths of our being—whether in the heights or depths.

A Closing Thought

In the psalm, the author expresses his awe at the depth of God's intimacy with humanity. Despite the vastness of creation, God knows every aspect of our being, including our thoughts, our actions, and even our unspoken desires. This profound knowledge is meant to inspire us to pursue a deeper relationship with our Creator, recognizing God's boundless care for and attention to us.

Your Life

Recognize that God knows every aspect of you, including your thoughts, your actions, and even the hidden corners of your heart. This truth can help deepen your relationship with Him. Spend time in prayer, pouring out your innermost thoughts, knowing that God listens and understands.

Your World!

As the psalmist acknowledges God's omnipresence, you must cultivate awareness of God's nearness throughout your day. Invite God into each moment, whether at work, at home, or in transit. Acknowledge His presence as you interact with others, face challenges, or experience joy.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, let us love ourselves and others unashamedly, knowing that Your love knows no bounds. May our hearts resonate with the psalmist's words as we go forth: "Search me, O God, and know my heart." Transform us, lead us, and draw us closer to You. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Conclusion

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

Next week's lesson will consider the significance of King David's family in relation to Jesus' ancestry (see Ruth 4:9-17; Luke 3:23-38). So, in preparation, think about the faith of your ancestors (either personally or as a congregation) by constructing a spiritual family tree.

Home Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY, November 25	"We Belong to Christ's Family"	(Luke 3:23-38)
TUESDAY, November 26	"A Household Built by God"	(Psalm 128)
WEDNESDAY, November 27	"Determined Loyalty"	(Ruth 1:1, 3, 6-18)
THURSDAY, November 28	"An Act of Kindness"	(Ruth 2:1-3, 17-23)
FRIDAY, November 29	"Bound Together by More than DNA"	(Matthew 12:46-50)
SATURDAY, November 30	"Daring Faith"	(Ruth 3:1-13)
SUNDAY, December 1	"God Has Not Abandoned You"	(Ruth 4:9-17)