

Psalms for Every Season: Praise

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Psalm 95 & 96

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Reflection & Discussion

Our God is amazing, big and creative

When we know this God, our response is praise.

*How would you describe what praise is?

*What are some of the amazing, big, creative, etc. things you love about God?

Praise psalms start with God's identity and our response to it

Read and discuss Psalm 95 & 96 (NIV)

Psalm 95

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

³ For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Today, if only you would hear his voice,

⁸ "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did.

¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with that generation;
I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they have not known my ways.'

¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger,
'They shall never enter my rest.'"

Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

⁴ For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.

⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

*What do you notice about praise from these psalms? What do the structure and wording show us about how to praise?

Praise is a verb and whole-life response to who God is

Sing, kneel down, proclaim, declare, praise, ascribe, worship, tremble, twirl, say, give a victory shout, extol!

*What does your praise to God look like? Does it include some elements of this psalmists?

*Can you share about a time of praise you experienced in your life?

*How does praising God as a community help you as an individual?

God reveals and we respond

When you have a passion, you share it.

*What passions are you always talking about? What would your life look like if this type of praise for God was part of your everyday?

*Would you consider yourself a person of praise? How could you develop this response?

*Why is God worthy of praise in your life?

*What is the Spirit saying to you through the praise psalms about your current season of life? What invitation do you sense?

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