

PEFC Weekly Family & Small Group Study Guide

August 21, 2022

Paynesville Evangelical Free Church

The Psalms

Hallelujah

Psalm 103



Big Idea

Our Praise to God for His Goodness and Leading in Our Lives Should Ring Throughout the Universe!

1. The choice to praise the Lord is a personal one.
2. Remembrance of all the Lord's benefits calls you to praise.
3. The Lord's leading is worthy of praise throughout the universe.

Introduction

What is your favorite hymn or song of praise? Why? What aspects of God does it highlight?

Bible Study Questions

Have someone read Psalm 103

What might be David's mood as he writes this Psalm? What seems to be inspiring the praise? Compare and contrast its style and content to other Psalms of David.

Identify God's "benefits" that David names in verses 3-5. What events in David's life might he be thinking of as he remembers these? How do we relate to these today? Think of some specific times in your life that you have experienced them. Why is it important to "forget not" (vs 2) these benefits?

What things do we learn about God in verses 6-14? Why might these inspire praise in David's soul? What event in Israel's history might be in the background of vs 8 (hint look at the context of Exodus 34:6)?

The Psalm uses three different analogies for God's love, removal of our sin, and compassion (vs 11-13). What specifically do each of these analogies teach us about these attributes of God? How do they impact our lives today?

How does David describe our lives in verses 14-16? How does verses 17 & 18 address this situation (note the "but" at the beginning of verse 17)? How does Jesus relate to these verses in Matt. 6:28-33?

Why do you think David turns from God's earthly reign (vs 1-18) to his heavenly reign (vs 19-22)? What does this teach us about God? How might what goes on in heaven affect us here on earth? How does the praise to God in heaven inspire David to praise him here?

How might you use this Psalm in your devotional life? How might you use it to share the gospel with someone?

Next Steps

Make a personal list of some of the benefits that you possess in your relationship with Jesus.

Write a short poem or song of praise expressing your gratitude toward God.

Memorize verses 11-13 and confidently confess any sin on your heart.

Prayer

Thank God for his lovingkindness, compassion & forgiveness. Share life needs within your group and pray for one another. Remember that prayer requests need to remain confidential and not be repeated outside your group without permission.