

CORE VERSES

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

Psalm 145:8-9

Psalm 145 is actually an acrostic that covers almost the entire Hebrew alphabet (with the exception of the letter nun in some manuscripts). Each verse in Hebrew begins with a letter, beginning with *alef* in verse 1 and finishing with *tav* in verse 21. In doing so, David accomplishes two amazingly

creative feats. First, he designed this song to be easy to memorize so that even a child could learn it (and the alphabet at the same time). Second, he literally used the entire alphabet to praise God. Every letter from A to Z sings His praise!

USE THE SPACE BELOW TO HELP YOU REMEMBER THESE VERSES. FEEL FREE TO WRITE, DRAW, OR DESIGN IN WAYS THAT MAKE SENSE TO YOU.

READ PSALM 145.

You and I were made to bring glory to our God. It's who we are, and it's at the very heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 145 is one of King David's declarations of praise to God, and it reveals several big ideas about what it means to be a worshiper of the Most High.

First, this psalm, like the others, is a song. It is poetry. It is an act of creation. Moved by the Holy Spirit, David worshiped his Creator by creating something—something meant to bring glory to God.

God never intended for our worship to be about doing the same thing in the same way over and over again forever until we die of boredom. Worship, praise, can be wildly creative, expressive, and new every day.

Second, worshiping God—honoring Him, praising Him, telling Him how great He is—is meant to be both daily and eternal. David declares both that he will praise God every day and that he will praise Him forever (v. 2). All of us in Christ will spend eternity praising God in creative and expressive ways. It's our destiny.

Next, we see that praising God is not just something we do to God; we're also meant to praise Him to each other. Our mighty God has done great things for each of us. One way we worship Him is to tell each other those stories: "Listen to how awesome God is! Here's what He did for me!" (v. 4)

So we praise God to God. We praise God to each other. And we're also meant to praise God to ourselves, to our own souls, in the quiet of our own thoughts. David described it as meditating on the *glorious splendor of God's majesty* (v. 5).

But praise always comes back to expressing what is good about God for others to see and hear. David describes trading the praise of God back and forth with others, telling each other over and over just how great He is (vv. 6-7).

And how is He great? That's another aspect of our worship—describing what is great about Him. David makes lists: God is *gracious and full of compassion* (v. 8), *slow to anger and great in mercy* (v. 8), *good to all, and His tender mercies are over all* (v. 9).

He goes on and on from there. You get the sense that David would just not shut up about how great God is. In fact, David saw his whole life as being about bringing glory to God. David's life was a creative expression of love to God in worship, which reflected the goodness of God to others. It wasn't just a thing he did at church; it was who he was.

Giving praise and glory and honor to God is who He has made you to be too. It's the natural language of anyone who follows Jesus. The more we become like Christ, the more praise and worship of God will come out of us. And our Father loves to experience our heartfelt responses to His goodness and love.

CORE CONCEPTS

Worship is our heartfelt response to the goodness and love of God.

HONOR:
High respect; esteem

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS

- » HOW IS PRAISING GOD THE SAME AS AND DIFFERENT THAN WORSHIPING HIM?
- » WHAT ARE DIFFERENT WAYS PEOPLE EXPRESSED PRAISE AND WORSHIP TO GOD IN THE BIBLE?
- » HOW DOES WORSHIP CHANGE US?
- » WRITE YOUR OWN QUESTION: