

LifeGroup Questions for July 2
Topic: **Lifting Up Praise to God**

Overview

A vital discipline of the Christian life is to focus more on God than our needs, situations and the troubles of life. Over 600 times in scripture praise to God is spoken of or called for. We all know how easy it is to come to God with petitions and pleas for help but neglect giving time to praise, adoration, and worship. We no longer bring offerings to God like in Old Testament times. But in Hebrews 13:15 we are told, *“Through Jesus, therefore, let us **continually** offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name.”* (NIV) In other places we are told to pray **without ceasing**. Thus our communion with God should be a way of life, continually praising and continually petitioning or interceding. These should be both private and corporate. We can do these because Christ has opened access for us into the very throne room of our holy God, the holy of holies. Amazing and Hallelujah!(praise the Lord).

1. As you evaluate your prayer life, what is your estimate of the percentage of your prayer time that is given to praise and adoration of your God and Savior over against petitioning?
2. Psalm 147:1 begins, *“Praise the Lord. How **good** it is to sing praises to our God, how **pleasant** and **fitting** to praise him!”*(NIV) Taking one highlighted word at a time, talk about why these things are true about praising God. Perhaps tell how you have found that true in your life.
 - a. Good
 - b. Pleasant
 - c. Fitting
3. According to the New Ungers’ Bible Dictionary, “Praise of God is the acknowledging of His perfections, works, and benefits. Praise and thanksgiving are generally considered as synonymous, yet some distinguish them thus: **praise properly terminates in God, on account of His natural excellencies and perfections, and is that act of devotion by which we confess and admire His several attributes.**”
Identify some attributes or qualities and acts of God you know that are absolutely phenomenal, things that move you to bow in awe and wonder and overflow with praise? (If need some prompts, check the following: Jer.32:17; Ps.145:1-7; Acts 2:22-24; Rom.11:33-36; 2 Pet.1:3-4)
Group Action: *Maybe bow now before God and praise his attributes that come to mind.*
4. Various prayers of God’s people are recorded in scripture. What do you observe as to how they began their prayers as they faced grave threats and dangers from evil people?
(King Hezekiah: 2 Chronicles 20:1,5-9; Daniel: Dan.2:19-23; Apostles: Acts 4:23-30)
 - a. What would you say is important about doing what they did?
 - b. When you face a personal crisis, see possible danger ahead, learn of growing threats in our country upon people of faith or conservative in politics, or see escalating violence, wickedness, and immorality, what tends to be your first focus when calling on God?
5. Sunday praise and worship can easily be a thoughtless routine. What makes it a living and vital spiritual experience for you? How would you say praise enhances your relationship with God?
6. Do you want to grow in making praise a stronger part of your life? Here are a few helps:
 - a. Just do it daily and you will increasingly enjoy expressing your delights to God as you would to anyone else you dearly love. Do it in your special prayer time or when on the go.
 - b. Get Book: **31 Days of Praise**. This will help you if you are not sure just how to express praise.
 - c. Read the Psalms regularly and observe how praise is often weaved in regardless of Circumstances. If you have time now, give praise as a group by reading together Psalm 100.