

Week 6

UNENDING PRAISE

PSALM 150

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: open our eyes to recognize your gracious hand in all your works; that we may rejoice with all your creation and learn to serve you with complete gladness, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were made. *Amen.*

- Book of Common Prayer, p. 814, *adapted*

INTRODUCTION

As we come to the last psalm of the Psalter and of this study, we experience something like a grand finale, with clashing cymbals, blaring trumpets, and shimmering tambourines—a festival of sorts. One might expect a display of fireworks at the end. If the psalmist has only one thing to say at the close of this collection of poems, prayers, and songs, Psalm 150 is it. The psalmist concludes that our life is meant for praise. All of creation was designed to join in unison to praise God, revealing his glory as seen in his mighty deeds and his excellent greatness. When we praise God, we become the outward expression of his glory. Joy is the outcome of our life of praise and the expression of our lives. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

KEY VERSE

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.”

PSALM 150:6

GETTING STARTED

Eugene Peterson said, “All prayer, pursued far enough, becomes praise.”³⁹ Can you remember a time when praying changed your attitude, even while you prayed? Why do you think that happens?

ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PAYING ATTENTION TO THE TEXT AND MAKING OBSERVATIONS

Read Psalm 150.

1. The psalmist summons us to praise God in his sanctuary. According to our study, where is God’s sanctuary? (See Psalm 29; Psalm 27:4–6; Psalm 23:5–6; John 1:14; Ephesians 2:22.)
2. According to verse 2, what are the two main things for which we praise God? What are some things that fall under these two categories, as expressed in Psalm 103?
3. How should we praise God, according to verses 3–5? What strikes you about these verses?
4. Who is called to praise the Lord in verse 6? Based on our study, what/who else might this include besides people? (See also Psalm 148:7–10; 103:20–22.)

WATCH VIDEO

The video teaching can be found at biblestudymedia.com/pilgrimspath.

Video Notes

BIG CONCEPTS:

- We are to praise God everywhere, at all times.
 - Praise acknowledges God's powerful works and righteous loving character.
 - Praise is an intentional, external expression.
 - Praise changes us by an "expansion" of God's Spirit in us.
 - Praise produces joy in us and in others.
 - Praise is for everyone.
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ENGAGE OUR HEARTS

APPLYING SCRIPTURE TO DEVELOP INTIMACY WITH GOD

5. Why can we praise God even in hardship and suffering? Have you ever done this? How did it impact you?

6. When we praise God, we align ourselves with him, with his Spirit. What is the gift we receive according to Galatians 5:22–23? How does this change the way we pray?

7. What happens, in your opinion, when you align your prayers with God's will?

CLOSING PRAYER

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!*

*Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!*

*Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!*

*Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!⁴⁰*