

The logo consists of the words "SO WILL I" in a bold, sans-serif font. "SO" is in blue, "WILL" is in purple, and "I" is in pink. The text is centered within a light gray square background.

Parkway Fellowship

SO WILL I • WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS • PSALM 100:1-5 • 11/1/2020

MAIN POINT

As redeemed children of God, we get to serve the Lord with joy.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

When did you become a Christ-follower?

How much thought would you say you give to what happens on Sunday mornings before you come to Parkway or before you turn on an electronic device to watch a service? Why is it so easy to go through the motions of worship? Do you ever dwell on the truth that you have the privilege and get to worship God? How might it change things if you did?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 100:1-2.

What three commands are given in these two verses? How are they related?

What happens when we confuse worship as an act of duty with an act of delight?

What if the group leader was to open tonight saying, "Make a joyful noise to me, all the earth! Worship me with gladness! Come into my presence with singing!"? We would all think the leader was crazy! However, God does this very thing—and it's for our good. In worshiping Him, we find our joy in life. We already love God, so God tells us to let that love out. We all enjoy telling other

people about the things we love. That's how it is with our love for God. If you love God, then you won't be able to be silent about Him.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 100:3.

Why is it good to be reminded that God is God, and we are not? What practical difference will this truth make in your life tomorrow?

The world tells us that we are in command of our own lives. What challenge does this verse bring to that false notion?

If we are the sheep in God's pasture, what do we know about the wisdom and power of our Shepherd? How should this impact our worship?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 100:4.

What do you have to be thankful for today?

Notice how the "gates" and the "courts" belong to God, but we get to come in. How does that fact relate to the "thanksgiving" and "praise" mentioned in the verse?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 100:5.

What reasons does the psalmist give to praise God? Which reason most motivates you to praise Him?

What is the character of the God we get to worship?

How does God's constant character help you be a more faithful and joyful worshiper?

For what reasons might someone not believe that God is good (v. 5)? How should Christians respond to this line of thinking?

Psalm 100 is an expression of praise to God. This psalm praises God by exalting His nature and His relationship with His people. One of the specific characteristics of God the psalmist points out is His goodness (v. 5). While the statement, "The LORD is good," may seem obvious, and even simple, not everyone believes that He is good. Some people who experience the consequences of their sins or others' sins are not convinced of God's goodness. Even those of us whose lives seem to be in good shape sometimes wonder why God allows certain things to happen in the world. Yet the basis of our faith is bound up in this brief affirmation of God's goodness. We could not trust or truly worship a God who was not good.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Consider the three points of application made in this week's message: 1. I will worship because I get to worship the Lord. 2. I will worship because I know that I am His. 3. I don't come to church to worship, I come to church already worshipping. Which stands out to you the most personally? Why?

How does it make you feel to know that you belong to the Lord?

What do you do or what are you going to start to do as that you can arrive at church already worshipping?

PRAYER

Thank God for the privilege of worshipping Him. Ask Him to fill you with joy and thanksgiving this week, knowing that you belong to Him.

COMMENTARY

| PSALM 100

Psalm 100 is a doxology, an expression of praise to God. As a doxology, the poem is not about praise; it is praise. As we read or sing these familiar words, we actually praise and thank God and confess His place in our experiences. This psalm praises God by exalting His nature and His relationship with His people. Some psalms praise God by recounting His mighty deeds. In Psalm 100 God is presented as the Creator and Ruler. He is to be approached as people would approach their king.

The kingship idea is appropriate because Psalm 100 follows a small collection of psalms dealing with God as King (see Ps. 93–99). The superscription, or heading, of Psalm 100 does not indicate its connection with any specific individual. The focus on kingship may indicate that Psalm 100 was written while God's people had an earthly king. On the other hand, the psalmist may have lived after the exile when Israel had no king. Although God's people were under foreign domination in exile, they knew that God remained their true King.

Regardless of when Psalm 100 was written, this worship hymn has a distinctly corporate nature. Its words are addressed to the many, not to the individual. The testimony comes from "us" and

“we.” Although Israelites worshiped God individually, in this psalm God’s poet directed attention to the great times when God’s people came together to praise and thank God through worship.

The Hebrew word translated “know” in Psalm 100:3 carries different connotations and meanings just as its English translation does. The word “know” is used in some Old Testament contexts to refer to mentally gaining knowledge or information as when we grasp some fact or truth (Gen. 27:2). The verb’s meaning includes being able to distinguish, or to discern, between good and evil (Gen. 3:5b).

The Hebrew term, as well as its English translation, also refers to personal acquaintance in some contexts (Gen. 29:5). The Hebrew verb is used to describe sexual relations (Gen. 4:25). In Hebrew the term translated “had relations with” in Genesis 4:25 is the verb literally meaning “knew.”

The Hebrew verb translated “know” carries the meaning of recognizing someone’s authority. To know a ruler meant to recognize his status and to give him proper respect and obedience. For example in Exodus 5:2, Pharaoh stated that he did not know the Lord. He refused to acknowledge God’s authority.

Finally, the Scriptures emphasize that God wants people to know Him. He wants them to experience a personal relationship with Him in which they worship and obey Him alone. The prophets lamented the reality that Israel did not know God (Isa. 1:3; Jer. 4:22). In the context of Psalm 100:3, the meaning of know includes acknowledging that the Lord is God and accepting the responsibilities involved in that relationship.