

Small Group Discussion + Leader Guide

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Preached By: Matt Alexander

“Reasons to Praise the King”

Summer in the Psalms Series #8

Psalms 145:1-21

OPENING PRAYER & ICEBREAKER

Opening Prayer: Ask someone to open your time together in prayer, asking God to help your group see Him more clearly and praise Him more fully.

Icebreaker Question: What's something you naturally praise or talk about often? (A favorite team, hobby, grandchildren, etc.) Why do you think we find it easy to praise the things we love?

SERMON RECAP

Main Idea: God is worthy of our continual praise—not because our circumstances are perfect, but because of who He is.

Four Reasons to Praise the King:

1. *His Greatness Is Boundless (vv. 1-7)*
2. *His Goodness Is Bountiful (vv. 8-10)*
3. *His Kingdom Is Blessed (vv. 11-13)*
4. *His Care Is Benevolent (vv. 14-21)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part 1: His Greatness Is Boundless

1. Read Psalm 145:1-7. David says God's greatness is "unsearchable." What does that mean, and why is it significant?
2. Pastor Matt said, "Our worship is small because our view of God is small." Do you agree? How have you seen this play out in your own life or in the church?
3. Verse 4 emphasizes passing down God's works to the next generation. What are some practical ways we can "commend God's works" to our children, grandchildren, or younger believers?
4. Reflection: When you think about the vastness of creation (stars, galaxies, oceans), how does that impact your view of God's greatness?

Part 2: His Goodness Is Bountiful

5. Read Psalm 145:8-10. This passage echoes Exodus 34:6-7, the most repeated description of God in the Bible. Why do you think God wants us to know He is "gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love"?
6. Pastor Matt said, "God is good because God is good—His circumstances do not determine His character." How does this truth challenge the way we evaluate God's goodness based on our circumstances?
7. Personal Application: Are you currently struggling to see God's goodness because of difficult circumstances? How can this group pray for you and help you remember God's character?
8. The sermon warned: "Don't merely seek God's blessings. Seek God Himself." What's the difference, and how can we know which one we're actually pursuing?

Part 3: His Kingdom Is Blessed

9. Read Psalm 145:11-13. What comfort does it bring to know that God's kingdom "will never end" while earthly kingdoms rise and fall?
10. Pastor Matt said, "Read the headlines, but don't let the headlines have the final word." How can we practically live this out in an election year or during times of cultural upheaval?
11. Where are you tempted to place your ultimate hope—in earthly kingdoms, political leaders, financial security, or something else? How does Psalm 145 redirect that hope?

Part 4: His Care Is Benevolent

12. Read Psalm 145:14-21. Notice how personal God's care is in these verses. Which phrase stands out most to you and why?
13. Pastor Matt referenced the illustration of a child sleeping peacefully in the backseat because they trust their father. What burdens are you carrying that God never intended you to carry?
14. Read 1 Peter 5:7. What does it practically look like to "cast all your anxieties on Him"? What makes this difficult for you?
15. The hymn "Does Jesus Care?" was referenced. How does knowing that Jesus cares about your deepest pain change the way you approach Him in prayer?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Praise is not primarily a response to favorable circumstances; it's a response to the character of God.
- God's greatness cannot be exhausted—we can spend our entire lives studying Him and never reach the end.
- The greatest gift God gives is not something from His hand; the greatest gift is God Himself.
- We are one generation away from forgetting the mighty works of God—we must intentionally pass on His praise.

- "Whoever gets the Son gets everything." The greatest treasure is Jesus Christ.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This Week's Challenge: Choose one of the following to practice this week:

1. **Daily Praise Practice:** Set aside 5 minutes each day to praise God specifically for His greatness, goodness, kingdom, or care. Journal what you discover about Him.
2. **Pass It On:** Share a story of God's faithfulness with someone younger than you—a child, grandchild, or younger believer.
3. **Cast Your Cares:** Write down the burdens you're carrying. Pray through 1 Peter 5:7 and physically give those burdens to God (you might even tear up the paper as a symbolic act).
4. **Redirect Your Hope:** Identify one area where you've placed ultimate hope in something other than God's kingdom. Confess it and ask God to help you trust His eternal reign.
5. **Memorize Scripture:** Commit Psalm 145:8-9 to memory this week.

CLOSING

Final Reflection Question: Pastor Matt ended with this question: "Have you received the Son?" Take a moment for silent reflection. Has everyone in your group truly trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and King?

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer:

- *Share prayer requests related to today's discussion*
- *Pray specifically for eyes to see the King more clearly and hearts that praise Him more passionately*
- *Pray for any in the group who may be struggling to trust God's goodness or care*

FOR NEXT WEEK

- Continue your daily praise practice
- Be ready to share one way you saw God's care this week

Remember: "The more clearly we see the King, the more passionately we will praise the King."