

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"HALLELUJAH IS OUR SONG" | PSALM 100: 1-5 | PASTOR BRIAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is your favorite thing to say or shout when you're excited?

"We Are Hallelujah People" - (Psalm 100:1-2)

Hallelujah means "to praise (rave, brag) about God". What are reasons people praise God?

"We Are Ash People" - (Psalm 100: 3)

Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, was a tradition originally designed to make people aware of their own sin, that we are sheep who have gone astray and need a savior. What else makes people aware of sin?

"We Are Easter People" - (Psalm 100: 4-5)

To sing Hallelujah means we focus on God and not ourselves. When is it most difficult for you to do that? What are ways to refocus on Him?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus wants us to experience the joy of our salvation that He paid for. That experience makes it easier to sing Hallelujah. When was the last time you experienced God's goodness? Have you been asking God to open your eyes and heart to experience His goodness?

Hallelujah Is Our Song

I. Slide1a,b Video:

A. Slide2 *AAYY-OOOO* :)

B. Slide3 I found out what *the Resurrection* would look like in 2021.

C. Slide4 Prayer: Lord, please roll away any *heavy stones* that have been rolled across our hearts.

II. Slide5,6 WE ARE HALLELUJAH PEOPLE

A. We are Hallelujah people because of our God.

1. It's Hebrew: *Alleluia* is Lt - from Gk *Allelouia* - from Hebrew *Hallelujah*.

2. It's Christian: used 4x's in Rev.19 (John wrote 95ad so Christians used in 1st cent).

3. It's Heavenly: the context of Rev.19:1 *After this I heard what seem to be a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven crying out Hallelujah!*

4. It's an Imperative: where the Gk *Alleluia* is a *joyful acclamation*.

The Heb is *an order, an imperative, a command* [2 words: *Praise-YAH. Rave about God, Brag about God*]

a) Split in 1/2 (and outside): Lft side of stage urge Rt side to *Praise the Lord* by saying *Hallelujah* on 3. [now rt side urge the lft].

B. Slide7 Ps.100 nlt 1 **Shout** with joy to the Lord, all the earth! 2 **Worship** the Lord with gladness. **Come** before him, **singing** with joy. 3 **Acknowledge** that the Lord is God! He **made** us, and **we are his**. **We are his** people, the **sheep** of his pasture. 4 **Enter** his gates with **thanksgiving** (msg *Enter with the password: Thank you!*); go into his courts with **praise**. Give **thanks** to him and **praise** his name. 5 **For the Lord is good**. His **unfailing love** continues forever, and his **faithfulness** continues to each generation.

C. All Languages *don't even try to translate Hallelujah* (like amen & Hosanna).

1. **Hallelujah** - so simple, so universal.

D. We are *Hallelujah People* that **proclaim not only the Easter story, but a joy** for today. **And** a **Hope** for tomorrow. A **life** full of love **and** a **love** to be lived.

III. Slide8-10 **WE ARE ASH PEOPLE**

A. We are Ash people because of our **sin**.

B. In church history & tradition, **Lent is for 40 days**: from Ash Wed **to** Sat before Resurrection Sun (ashes from *Palm fronds* from the previous Palm Sun).

C. **And** then there is the **50 days of Easter**: from Easter morn **to** Pentecost (50).

This tradition dates back to 4th cent ... [Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, Reformed, Nazarenes]

1. The **Western Church** abstained from using Hallelujah during lent (a form of *fasting*, making them *more eager* to use it on Easter **&** afterward. Meant to **feel its absence & long for** its return).

a) We are *Ash People*. See **Lent** was specifically to point out the *awareness of our sinfulness and need for conversion*.

b) We all start off as *Ash People* **but** God's desire is that we would become *Easter People*.

IV. Slide11,12 **WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE**

A. We are Easter people because of **His resurrection**.

B. **My Title** is from *St. Augustine the 4th cent North African bishop* who is credited with this famous saying, "*We are Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song.*"

1. This quote challenges us to *sing & celebrate* this *joyous season* in **the One** who **suffered, died, and rose to save us**.

2. **Because** we are **Easter/Res People** we have so many reasons to ... *rejoice, shout, praise, lift hands, sing, tell others, serve others, love others*. **And live our lives** in **worship** to Him.

C. **Slide13** We are Easter People when we count our blessings.

- D. We are Easter People when we gather together to *Praise* the Lord.
- E. We are Easter People when we open God's word for *encouragement, correction, or His advice* for each day.
- F. We are Easter People *even when* we get the *hope* knocked out of us. [it might be a song in *a minor key*, but we are Easter People just the same] (we might even have to sing it *even w/a lump in our throat*).
- G. We are Easter People *even when* we *don't* have *perfect faith*.
- H. We are Easter People when we get *bad news* about a friend or loved one's *diagnosis*, or a *scary report* from our own doctor. *Why? For in this world we will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.* Jn.16:33
- I. We are Easter People when we *grieve*. An angel & Jesus met Mary Mag while she was *grieving* at graveside. (angel) *Why are you weeping?* [taken away, I don't know where]. (Jesus/hidden) *Why weeping? Whom seeking? Mr. Gardener Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid them, and I will take them away. Mary!*
1. It's why we sing: *I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm. Louder and louder you're gonna hear my praises roar. Up from the ashes hope will arise. Death is defeated the King is alive.*
- J. Slide14 Hallelujah/Praise God/Worshiping Him involves ...
1. It involves **surrender** (raise hands. surrendering self, a sin, your life/ \$, time). It involves **getting out of the way** (removing your worries, likes/ dislikes. your opinions). It involves **putting your focus on Him**. It involves **personal sacrifice** (offer bodies a liv sac). It involves **worshiping in the face of pain and loss** (David when his baby died, 2 Sam.12:20 *went into the house of the Lord & worshiped*). It involves **celebrating who God is and what He has done**.
- K. Slide15 Raise a Hallelujah in the face of all there is to **complain** about.
- L. Raise a Hallelujah in the **good** times and in the **bad**.
- M. Raise a Hallelujah **waking up** to the day the Lord has made.

- N. **Raise a Hallelujah** to my **1st cup** of coffee in the morning :)
- O. **Raise a Hallelujah** with your **last prayer** as your head hits the pillow.
- P. **Raise a Hallelujah** when you **realize** how much **work** Christ's resurrection still has to do **in** you.

- Q. **Invitation:** There is a big difference of knowing **honey** is sweet because *someone described it to you*, and knowing **honey** is sweet because you *put some in your mouth*. [Ps.34:8 *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Not if the Lord is good*]
1. Would you like to Taste **Him** this morning? *He is sweeter than ever!*
 2. Would you like to be **forgiven**? I know something that God doesn't know ... *my sins*. [Jer.31:34 *For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more*]
 3. Would you like to be **made alive**? **Mic illus:** Off position **to** on position.
 4. Would you like to **respond** to God's *imperative* to Praise Him?
Hallelujah is an **Invitation** to everyone who hears it, into *that same hope, that same love, that same new life*.
** Invite up worship team while I pray.*

R. **End End:** Next week, new service items.

1. *"We are **Easter people**, and **Hallelujah** is our song."*