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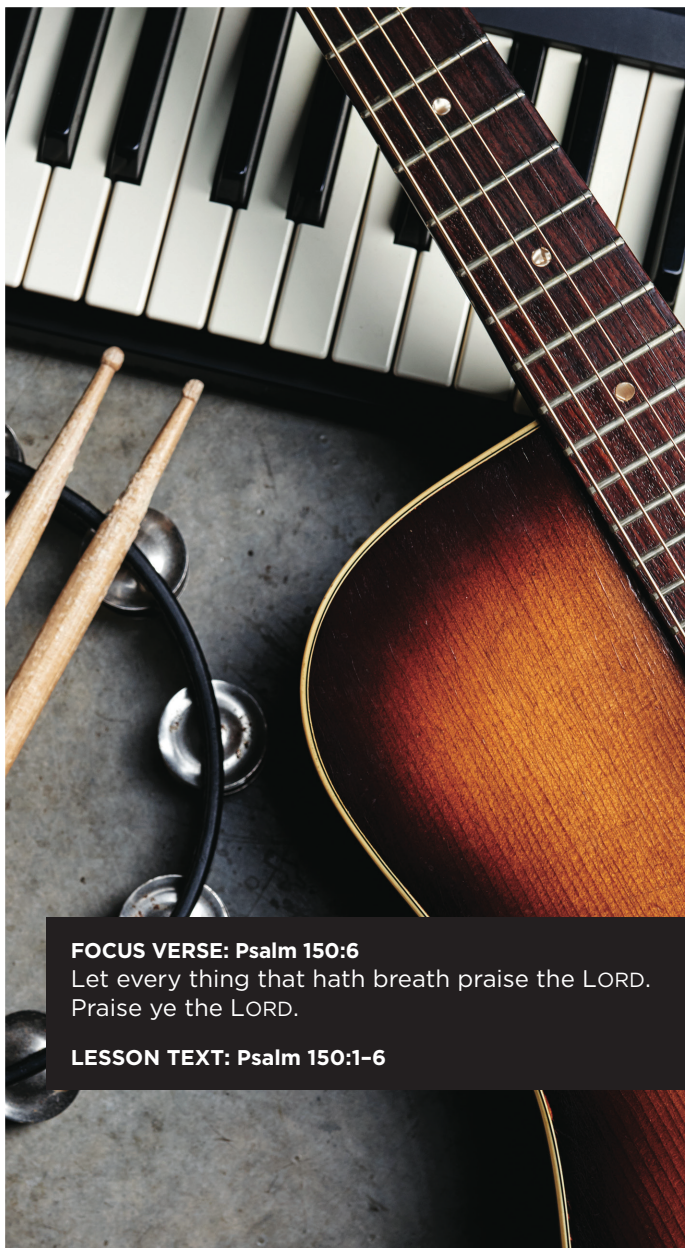
CREATED TO WORSHIP

LESSON BIG IDEA

I will praise the Lord.

TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God designed creation to worship Him.



FOCUS VERSE: Psalm 150:6

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.
Praise ye the LORD.

LESSON TEXT: Psalm 150:1-6

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

Lesson Text: Psalm 150:1-6

The Book of Psalms is intentionally structured in a self-interpretive way. The first evidence of this organization is that it is traditionally divided into five books. Many English translations show this by printing “Book One” above Psalm 1 and identifying Book One as Psalms 1-41. Then above Psalm 42, “Book Two” appears, classifying Book Two as Psalms 42-72. Then above Psalm 73 appears “Book Three,” categorizing Book Three as Psalms 73-89. Above Psalm 90 appears “Book Four, Psalms 90-106.” “Book Five, Psalms 107-150” marks off the final book within the Psalter.

One reason for these divisions is apparently the similarity of the text at the end of each “book.” Book One ends with “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen and Amen” (Psalm 41:13). The similarity between this and Psalm 72:18-19 is apparent, with Psalm 72:20 providing an obvious end of the section. Psalm 89:52 also ends with “Amen, and Amen.” Psalm 106 concludes with “Amen. Praise ye the LORD.” Psalm 150 needs no amen, for it is obviously the end of the entire book.

Psalms 1-2 serve together as the introduction of the Psalter, introducing themes that continue throughout the book. A major theme is that the person who delights in and meditates on Scripture and who trusts in the Son will be blessed (Psalm 1:1-2; 2:7, 12). These practices will produce a life of abundant praise, as seen in Psalm 150.

Psalm 150 concludes a section of five psalms commonly identified as the Hallelujah Chorus because they bring the psalter to a glorious conclusion. Each of these psalms, beginning with Psalm 146 begins and ends with “Praise ye the LORD.” This is the translation of the Hebrew word commonly transliterated *Hallelujah*. Hallelujah is a command, a second person plural imperative. It is not technically praise itself; it is a command to praise. Common use throughout the history of Christianity has, however, contextually redefined *hallelujah* as a word of praise. The *jah* ending of the word is transliterated from *Yah*, an abbreviation of Yahweh, or Jehovah. (See Psalm 68:4.)

HALLELUJAH
IS A COMMAND TO PRAISE.

DAY 1

Bible Reading Plan

I Samuel 15 16 17 18

Psalm 150:1-2

¹ Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in the firmament of his power.

² Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Biblical Insight

The final psalm brings to a glorious conclusion the result of following the counsel of Psalms 1-2. Those who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the scornful, but who have put their trust in the Son are brought to a place of unbridled praise. They praise the LORD in His sanctuary and in the firmament of His power. The firmament refers to the vault of the heavens. The poetic form of the psalms suggests that the heavens are His sanctuary.

Psalm 150:1 tells us who we are to praise. He is the LORD (Yahweh, sometimes spelled Jehovah) God (*El*). Psalm 150 says why we should praise Him. His mighty acts are described in the Psalms. They are evidence of His excellent greatness.

Daily Devotion

Do you recall the mighty acts of God in your life? The psalmist calls us to remember. When we forget the past provisions of God, we risk losing faith in His future promises.

The first generation of Israelites delivered from Egypt knew this truth all too well. They forgot the mighty acts of God at the Red Sea and the miraculous provisions of manna in the wilderness. As a result, their faith failed in the Promised Land, and they died in the desert.

God never says, "You can't." He commands us not to sin, of course, but He never expresses that His people cannot fulfill His will. God knows we are able when we trust in Him.

So what is God asking you to believe? Has God put something hard to believe in your heart? Maybe He wants you to start a ministry, reach out to a co-worker, mend a relationship, or pray for healing. Can you heal? Can you save? No, but God can. Today, join the psalmist and take a praise break for the mighty acts that he has done and the mighty acts that are coming soon.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

DAY 2

Bible Reading Plan

I Samuel 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ | Luke 15 ☐

Psalm 150:3

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Biblical Insight

The final psalm in the Hallelujah Chorus takes the exuberant praise of Psalm 149 to even greater heights. Verses 3-5 tell us how to praise the LORD God. We are to use trumpets, lutes (*nebel*, translated *Psaltery*), and lyres (*chinnor*, translated *harp*).

Daily Devotion

According to biblical research by Yelena Kolyada in *A Compendium of Musical Instruments and Instrumental Terminology in the Bible*, the people of God created the biblical shofar to "praise God with their loud blasts" (Psalm 150:3). The shofar made the triumphant sound of the trumpet. People considered the instrument a sacred symbol of the voice of God, so the sound echoed the divine in their ears (Leviticus 23:24; Numbers 29:1). The sound of the shofar also assembled the community of God's people (Numbers 10:2-7). The trumpet's sacred sound acted as a sign of mediation between God and His people (Numbers 10:9, 10).

When we join the psalmist in heavenly exultation and praise God with the thunderous volume, we evoke the same response of victory today. God's voice reverberates through the praise of His people. There is a time for contemplation, but there is also a time to turn up our praise volume. Today, lift loud praise to God and declare His sovereign victory in your life.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

DAY 3

Bible Reading Plan

I Samuel 22 □ 23 □ 24 □ | Luke 16 □

Psalm 150:4

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Biblical Insight

It seems there is no limit to the musical instruments to be employed in praising the LORD. In addition to those specified in the previous and following verses, tamborines (*toph*, translated *timbrel*), various stringed instruments, and organs should be included in this grand orchestra of praise. The music should be accompanied by dances of praise.

Daily Devotion

Music in ancient times was communal. According to biblical research by Yelena Kolyada, musical instruments accompanied "ritual processions, temple services, court ceremonies, religious feasts, and secular festivals . . . in military campaigns, in greeting a victorious company, and in grandiose secular celebrations, such as the ritual of the anointing of kings, for family celebrations, and funerals" (*A Compendium of Musical Instruments and Instrumental Terminology in the Bible*). The praise envisioned here reflects the communal nature of music.

The psalmist calls for the community of God's people to join the sound. You can feel the psalmist building toward a crescendo like a great orchestra conductor, and, like the strings bound together in harmony, the people of God unite to create a symphony of praise.

Many outsiders have attended Pentecostal services and made remarks about the tangible presence of God in our midst. Could it be that the power of our praise is the unity of our holiness? The praise of our lips reflects consecrated hearts in unison with the will of the King.

Today, prepare your heart for corporate worship like a first-chair violinist in an orchestra.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

DAY 4

Bible Reading Plan

I Samuel 25 26 27 28 29

Psalm 150:5

Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Biblical Insight

Imagine the crashing sounds of loud, high sounding cymbals. Even these are included in the acceptable ways to praise God. And there is no indication the instruments listed in Psalm 150 exhaust the possibilities of praise. Paul, who no doubt had the Book of Psalms in mind, said the church should worship with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19).

Daily Devotion

What is the difference between the praise of “clashing cymbals” in Psalm 150:5 and the noise of “a clanging cymbal” in I Corinthians 13:1?

Critics of diverse praise expressions often focus on the style or volume of worship and contend the music displeases God. However, the psalmist shows just how loud praise can get. High volume praise does not displease God. The real difference between noise and praise to God is love.

The praise of Israel became noise because their heart was not in it (Isaiah 29:13). God chastised such people, “Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments” (Amos 5:23, NKJV). God has always cared more about the heart of the worshiper than the style or decibels of worship.

Today, “let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips” (Hebrews 13:15, NKJV). The roots of our hearts produce the fruit of our lips. Holy worship grows from the roots of a relationship with Jesus Christ. God loves the high-sounding praise from a heart consecrated to Him.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

DAY 5

Bible Reading Plan

I Samuel 30 □ 31 □ | Luke 17 □

Psalm 150:6

Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

Biblical Insight

The only requirement given to be part of this celebration is to be breathing. The Book of Psalms, which began with concerns about the possible influence of the wicked (Psalm 1) and their threat against the LORD and His Messiah (Psalm 2), ends with a resounding note of praise in celebration of His victory over His enemies.

Daily Devotion

The culmination of Psalm 150 calls all people to praise. The psalmist's call would take on new meaning as scholars would translate Scripture into different languages. Cultures worldwide would introduce creative expressions of praise into the psalm and testify to the beautiful diversity found in worship.

Praise Him with bamboo flute in China. Praise Him woodwind instruments of Asia. Praise Him with the sitar in India. Praise Him with the dance in Africa. "In whatever language these sublime, impressive and expressive lines [of Psalm 150] are recited, they convey a central theme of the Bible, the heartfelt worship of God" (Yelena Kolyada, *A Compendium of Musical Instruments and Instrumental Terminology in the Bible*).

The breath of the Creator unites the diverse expressions of heartfelt praise here on earth. And one day, we will praise the King of kings in unison around the throne of God (Psalm 86:9; Revelation 15:4). We can only wonder whether Psalm 150 will be the first song we sing.



Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

Lesson Title: Created to Worship

Scripture Focus: Psalm 150:6

The Lesson in Context

“Praise ye the Lord” is not just a verbal command. It is the unspoken command of the soul. It is what people will *hear* from your life whenever they think of you. Like the Kiowa grandfather, speaking with his whole life of the majesty of his people and compelling his grandson to walk away blazing with a desire to tell others of this majesty, so does the Apostolic, having in concert a life lived in praise of God, teach others of the glory of God and compel them in a thousand ways: “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Group Discussion

1. What is the most beautiful place you have ever been? What made it so striking and significant to you?
2. In what ways do we worship God every day?
3. What is a mighty act God has performed in your life?
4. What is one of your favorite worship songs? Why is it a favorite of yours?
5. What are some things people worship in our world? Why do you consider it worship?

My Prayer for the Upcoming Week

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?
