

The Big Picture

We conclude our look at the psalms with several psalms of praise, using them to praise God for the great things he has done.

Biblical Text

Psalm 146-150 (All scripture quotations taken from the NIV unless otherwise noted.)

Materials Needed

Enough Bibles for people to read through these psalms together.

Preparing for the Lesson

Today, we are going to do something a little different to conclude our look at the psalms. Sometimes our desire to know more about Scripture causes us to take a section like Psalm 146-150 and dissect it to learn the truths that are contained within. In reality, the truths contained in these psalms are the expressions of praise that are lifted up to God.

Praise is nothing more than a recognition and articulation of who God is and the great things he has done. It is an affirmation that God is the ruler of the universe, which he created. To speak a psalm of praise is actually putting the psalm into practice, if you will, because we begin to articulate that which the psalmist also spoke or wrote.

Our lesson today will not have discussion questions, but instead our discussion will be a “concert” of praise. I want you to read, collectively as a group, Psalms 146-150. You may want to have someone read one of the psalms to the group, then have the next one read in unison by all of the group. I would encourage you to have different people read. If you have children who can read, have them read as well, even if they need to use a translation that is better suited to their reading ability. If you want, have an adult read one of these psalms, then have a child read the same psalm from their translation.

The point is to hear the words of the psalmist, speaking his praise to God, and then as we speak them today, they become our own words of praise to him.

Possible Lesson Outline

Read through Psalm 146-150.

If you choose to, conclude your time with the prayer exercise listed below.

For the Kids

I would encourage you to have the children read if they are able. Even if they are not, it is important for them to hear the words of the psalmist spoken by group members, so include your children in this exercise.

Prayer Ideas

I would spend the time to go around the circle and ask every individual in your group: Since it has been so long since we have been together, what has been going on that we can be in prayer about and what do you have coming up that we need to remember?

For Further Reading/Study

The two works I have been using for these lessons are:

Bellinger Jr., W. H. *Psalms: Reading and Studying the Book of Praises*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1990.

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Press, 1984.