

Worship The Lord!

Psalm 100

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 100:4

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

For the noisemaker: two small plates for each child, dry beans, glue, a hole punch and thin, colorful ribbon. For the streamer: enough streamers for a 36” length to be given to each child, glue and a tongue depressor.

A pencil and piece of paper for each pair of children in your class.

Clear shelf paper, white paper, markers, stickers, glitter, and scissors.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Worship the Lord!

Give the children a choice to make two different items for worship. They can either make a noisemaker or a streamer. You will need two small plates for each child, dry beans, glue, a hole punch and thin, colorful ribbon for the noisemaker. For the streamer you will need enough party streamers for a 36” length to be given to each child, glue and a tongue depressor.

To make the noisemaker, set a small amount of beans on a small plate. Put glue on the outer rim of the plate. Set the other plate over it and staple it. When dry use the hole punch to make a few small holes in the rim. String thin ribbon through the holes to make tassels. To make the streamer, simply cut out 36” lengths to give to each child. Glue one end to a tongue depressor to use as a handle. Allow it to dry. As an option, to introduce today’s lesson, you may want to bring in a children’s worship tape to play and

allow the children to worship the Lord with their noisemakers and streamers.

Explain to the children that God wants us to praise Him with a joyful heart.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever been asked what you wanted for your birthday or Christmas? Wow! Given the opportunity to tell your mom or dad what you really want can be exciting. When you think about it, we naturally have a lot of wants. We tend to want more than we really need.

But have you ever wondered what God wants? We are well acquainted with our desires, but what about God's? When you look back at the time when Adam and Eve fellowshiped with God in the Garden of Eden you realize that we were created to honor and glorify God. Our lives should be a living expression of worship to God, because that is what He desires. Psalm 100 encourages us to **Praise God with a joyful heart.**

PSALM 100:1

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!

When Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, their relationship with God was changed because of sin. Their disobedience severed the beautiful fellowship they enjoyed with God. Sin had broken the relationship. When they left the Garden there was no joy.

God's greatest desire was to restore the broken relationship with Him. Because of our fallen nature, being born into sin, God revealed His great love for us by sending His only begotten Son to redeem mankind and to bring us back into fellowship with Him

(John 3:16). But it was at great cost to God. It revealed His wonderful love for us.

Verse 1 tells us to shout joyfully to the Lord. When we look at what God has done for us how can we not shout with joy? God has given us the opportunity to respond to His offer of salvation by putting our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ so that we can be saved from being separated from God forever in hell. How could we not shout joyfully to the One that has shown such great love for us? Praise should come naturally when we count our blessings. **Praise God with a joyful heart.**

PSALM 100:2

Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing.

Two things will naturally happen to us when we respond to God's great love. We will have a desire to serve the Lord with gladness and we will worship Him with a joyful heart. Sometimes people think that it is boring to serve the Lord, or that maybe serving God just means to follow a list of do's and don'ts. But we serve our Lord because He fills our hearts with joy. It is wonderful and exciting to serve Jesus!

It's easy to say that we serve God with our lips, but it's a different story to serve God with our lives. Every day our desire should be to live for God, walking in the path of His ways. Our greatest desire must be to do what God wants, living a life honoring Him. Actions speak louder than words. Our actions are an expression of worship, which bring glory and honor to God. We can live a life of joy as we serve Him with gladness. Every day we can **Praise God with a joyful heart.**

The apostle Paul wrote, "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship"

(Romans 12:1). God wants us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices everyday, laying aside our own desires to follow Him. We should naturally do this out of gratitude and joy, because He has forgiven us.

If our lives are an expression of worship to God, our lips can sing true praise and thankfulness with honor to Him. We can come before Him with songs of praise from our hearts.

Praise is important because it helps us remember who God is. Often our prayers are filled with requests for others and ourselves, and we forget to thank God for what He has done and to worship Him for who He is. The psalmist wrote, “Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, ‘Let God be magnified!’ ” (Psalm 70:4).

Praise Pairs

Have the children in the class pair up with each other. Give each pair a pencil and piece of paper. Have the pair think of at least five things that they are thankful for or can praise the Lord for. When the pairs are done make a large list on the chalkboard. You should find and can emphasize that when they work together they will come up with many different things that we can praise the Lord for.

PSALM 100:3

Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

The Lord should be praised and worshipped joyfully because He is sovereign. He is the Creator of all, for He alone is worthy of being worshipped. Because He is the Creator, those of us who trust in Him are His possession. We are invited to know Him as the sheep know their shepherd.

We live in a society today that constantly persuades us to live for ourselves as though we were the center of our own little world. Pushed to live life for self, we can easily give in to the world's influence. But when we realize that God created us for His good pleasure, we will make Him the center of our life. A sincere desire to please God will result in an alignment of our desires with God's desires. As we come to know the Lord, our loving Creator, songs of praise will flow from your heart with joy. **Praise God with a joyful heart.**

PSALM 100:4

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

The psalmist gives us a beautiful exhortation to enter the presence of God with much thanksgiving because God is good and faithful. God's servants are called to enter Jerusalem (God's gates) and to go to the temple (His courts) to offer their thanksgiving sacrifices for His blessings to them.

Prayer is how we approach God. The Israelites could only dwell in the courts of the temple, and were prohibited from entering the Holy of Holies, the presence of God. Only the High Priest could enter it once a year to atone for the sins of the people. But we now have Jesus as our High Priest and as Christians we can enter the throne of grace to find help and mercy in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16). We can come into the presence of God with confidence and assurance that He will hear our prayers.

Do you willingly and joyfully come into God's presence or are you just going through the motions, reluctantly going to church? This psalm tells us to remember God's goodness and faithfulness, and then to worship with thanksgiving and praise. **Praise God with a joyful heart.** Come before Him with reverence, for He is your

King, but come with bold assurance, for He is your Friend and Helper.

PSALM 100:5

For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

God is faithful to all generations; His goodness and faithfulness endure forever. As His people we should praise Him for all His benefits for He is worthy. “The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth” (Psalm 145:17,18). Come before the Lord with a joyful heart. “He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them” (verse 19). We are called to bless His name. **Praise God with a joyful heart.**

Let your life be an expression of worship to the One who is worthy of our praise. He wants our best, so let's not hold back anything to serve Him. He is worthy of our praise!

Bumper Stickers

The object of this craft is for the children to make a sticker telling the whole world about their love for Jesus. You will need clear shelf paper, white paper, markers, stickers, glitter, and scissors.

Cut the white paper into 2"x 8" strips (enough for each child to have one). Cut 3"x 9" strips of shelf paper (enough for each child to have one). Have the children think of and write a small phrase on the paper that declares their love for Jesus. It can be as simple as, "I love Jesus!" Decorate the paper. Peel the shelf paper and center it on the paper. The size should leave a border of shelf paper of about 1/2". The children can put their bumper stickers on themselves or on the bulletin board. But be sure to get mom or dad's permission before putting them on the car!

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of praise and worship to our Lord. Spend time praising the Lord and thanking Him for His goodness. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.