

Transformed By Praise

Week 2 Study Questions (pp. 1-10)

Group Questions

Discussion starter: Do you have a favorite psalm, hymn, or spiritual song (Col 3:16)? Why is it your favorite?

1. What is the dominant “note” of the Psalms? What are some of the minor “notes” of the Psalms?
2. In Hebrew there are several words for the praise of God. How are these words variously translated in English?
3. When you think of praising God, what are some things that come to mind? What are some of the ways the Bible instructs us to praise God?
4. Are there some ways to praise God that you are more comfortable with than others? Why?
5. Where did the word “Psalms” come from?
6. Why did the Israelites name this book “The Book of Praises”?
7. The Hebrew word *hallelujah* means “praise the Lord.” How is this understood as an exclamation? How is this understood as a command?
8. What are the two primary ways God’s people are to respond to the command to praise the Lord? How does this challenge your idea of what it means to praise God?

9. Give several examples of how you might praise the Lord for who he is.

10. Give several examples of how you might praise the Lord for what he has done?

11. How is Jesus Christ integral to praising God for who he is and what he has done?

12. How should a proper understanding of praising the Lord affect the following?
 - a. Public and private worship

 - b. Involvement in evangelism

 - c. Vocation

 - d. Personal relationships?

Digging Deeper

Read Psalm 145 carefully and note how the author praises God. What specific things about God are praiseworthy? What specific things has God done that are praiseworthy? In what specific ways have these qualities and acts of God touched your life? In your own words, praise the Lord for those specific ways he has impacted your life.

Application

Sometimes we just don't feel like praising the Lord. Perhaps you are experiencing great sorrow or adversity in your life. Perhaps God feels very distant from you or seems to not be listening. Or maybe it has been so long since you've prayed sincerely that you've forgotten how to pour out your heart to God. Whatever your burden or struggle, God's word in the Psalms can help. Read and pray through Psalm 104 by yourself or with a friend, asking God to teach you by the example of the Psalms to praise him.