

Psalms Playlist

Week 8 | Psalm 100

Hello friends! Lisa, here. Welcome back to our Psalms Playlist series. I am taking some vacation time with my family, so for Days 2–5, I have selected some excerpts from other authors to guide you through Psalm 100. I'm sure you'll enjoy the variety of voices reflecting on this beloved psalm. While I'm only including select quotes, I will provide links so you can read each author in full.

Last week's Engage God Daily on Psalm 51 was written by guest author, David King. Unfortunately, his name was left off some versions of the guide. I appreciated his insights as he led us through David's amazing psalm of repentance and restoration. So, thank you David!

Day 1

Lisa Scheffler, author

Read

Psalm 100 (NIV)

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

*² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*

³ Know that the Lord is God.

*It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

- From its inception, Psalm 100 has been used to encourage God’s people in corporate worship. According to this psalm, how should we worship when we gather together? What should we think, say, and do?

Reflect

Throughout Church history, Psalm 100 has been known as the *Jubilate*, Latin for “shout for joy.” It calls us to come together and praise our faithful and loving God with joyful and exuberant worship. Yet, because of the current global pandemic, the majority of churches aren’t meeting in person for services. Like Christ Fellowship, many are meeting online. How can we worship together when we’re apart?

Though we are physically separated, we can still worship corporately. We may not be able to hear each other’s voices, but we can still raise them as one. By singing the same words at the same time, our voices are united across the distance as we lift them in praise to God. As God’s people, we should participate in worship from home with the same devotion and joy as we would if we were under the same roof. We can still come before the Lord with joyful song together.

Of course, being separated has reminded us of just how important the gathered church is. But even after the threat of the virus fades and we resume meeting in person, we will still be a scattered Church. Our local fellowship will come together, but time and distance separates the big-C Church — believers from every age and every place. It won’t always be that way.

I imagine that one day, after Jesus returns for his people, we will all enter the gates of the New Jerusalem with noisy and resounding joy and over-the-top praise. Psalm 100 will become a reality that we can only partially imagine now. The whole earth will shout and rejoice in our Lord’s faithfulness. We will celebrate the ultimate redemption for which our hearts long and believers from every time and every corner of this globe will praise him with one voice, “*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*”

Respond

How has being unable to gather in person worship services affected you? Are you being diligent to attend online and participate in the services? Are you connecting with your fellow believers in whatever way you can? How can Psalm 100 encourage you to do so this week?

Day 2

Read

Psalm 100:1–2

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- What's the last time you shouted for joy? What was the occasion?

Reflect

From "Insight for Today" a daily devotional by Pastor Church Swindoll

Shout joyfully to the LORD (100:1). This is quite a beginning! The Hebrew gets straight to the point. In fact, the term "joyfully" doesn't appear in the Hebrew. Literally rendered, it's "Shout to the Lord!" The word "shout" comes from a Hebrew word meaning "to raise a noise, to give a blast (as on a trumpet)." The composer calls for the kind of shouting that erupts from a person so full of joy he can't contain his emotions, the kind of uninhibited whooping you hear from fans at a football game. He says, in effect, "Shout in joyful approval of God!"...

Serve the LORD with gladness (100:2). A healthy sign of the grateful life is serving. Few decisions are more effective in easing the daily grind of ingratitude than serving others. In doing God's work, we serve Him, not the local church, not the superintendent of some department, not the pastor or some board. We serve the Lord. It is He we worship and for Him we labor—not people! And please observe that the motivation is neither grudging nor guilt-ridden; we are urged to serve "with gladness." The Hebrew term for this phrase was used to describe pleasant things that gave happiness.

Now let's get real for a moment. You don't always feel like serving. Yet waiting until you feel grateful isn't a good plan; you'll never serve! (I write from personal experience.) The psalm doesn't imply we should serve only when our hearts are filled with joy. On the contrary, we are commanded to serve regardless; gladness will soon follow. In fact, when I start feeling sorry for myself or my attitude takes a cynical turn, I know it's time to serve someone who's in worse shape. It's not long before gladness pushes negativity out of my heart...

To read the rest of Pastor Swindoll's devotional, go to <https://www.insight.org/resources/daily-devotional/individual/choose-joy>

Respond

In hard times, we may not feel particularly joyful. God doesn't call on us to fake it and act like everything is fine. There is a time and place for repentance and lament. Yet, we can focus on the blessings we've been given and find joy in those. We can serve others, and find joy in making a difference in someone else's life. How can you worship the Lord with gladness today? With whom can you share some of your blessings?

Day 3

Read

Psalm 100

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- What do you think it means for the "all the earth" to shout for joy to the Lord?

Reflect

From R.C. Sproul, Ligonier Ministries

Remarkably, the psalm opens with a call for all the earth to "make a joyful noise to the LORD (v. 1). Because the Old Testament is so concerned with the history of God's relationship to ancient Israel, it can be easy for us to assume that the ancient Israelites had no

real concern for the salvation of the nations around them. Without a doubt, the prophets do condemn Israel for being a poor witness to the Gentiles, for not fulfilling her call to be a servant and light to the nations (Isa. 42:18-25). Nevertheless, there were always people in the old covenant community who sought to bring the worship of the one true God to the nations.

This is confirmed in Psalm 100:3, which states, “Know that the LORD, he is God!” In our English translations of the Old Testament, the Hebrew name *Yahweh*, which is the special covenant name of Israel’s covenant Lord, is typically rendered using small caps: “LORD.” To paraphrase, then, verse 3 is a call to the nations to understand that the Lord of Israel alone is God, that the Lord of Israel is not ruler over just that nation but is the only true God, the Creator of all. The Lord who has revealed the Scriptures treasured by the ancient Israelites is the only God. All people belong to Him by right, and those who will trust and believe in Him will belong to Him as His treasured possession. They and they alone will be His children (Deut. 7:6; John 1:11-13).

To read the rest of this reflection, go to
<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/rejoicing-unto-lord/>

Respond

We can sometimes think of worship as only singing. But what does it mean worship God with your whole life? How could doing so help “bring the worship of the one true God to the nations”?

Day 4

Read

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- According to this psalm, why is God worthy of our praise? How has he shown himself worthy of praise in your life?

Reflect

From Dr. Becky Luman, Wesley Biblical Seminary

This short song is a call to worship God with reasons given as to why God is worthy. John Stott, Anglican scholar, said that *worship is a combination of adoration and surrender*. In **adoration**, we are emotionally and intellectually moved with wonder, admiration, and love for our incredible Lord. The reasonable response to such awe is **surrender**, to give to him our possessions, our time, our energy—our very lives and selves.

The basis for our adoration is the marvelous character of God. He is our Creator who brought us into being. He is our sustaining shepherd who guards and guides us as his own sheep (verse 3).

Verse 5 states that God is good. That fact was a wondrous and revolutionary revelation to Jews living in an era when a plethora of gods around them were revered and feared. The gods of the nations had to be appeased, for they were portrayed as indifferent or hostile toward humankind. That a god would be *good*, that it would have the welfare of its people at heart, set Yahweh apart from other so-called gods. God's character is further defined as eternal love and generational faithfulness to his people.

To read the rest of this devotional, go to <https://wbs.edu/2016/10/psalm-100-song-joyful-worship/>

Respond

How have you experienced God's goodness and faithfulness? List some of the ways, then spend some time praising God for them. Sing or shout your praise to God! How can you show both adoration and surrender today?

Day 5

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- Psalm 100 is often used as a part of worship services around the Thanksgiving holiday. In the heat of summer, it's hard to remember the cool of fall, but that's O.K. Taking time to be thankful should be more than a once a year habit for Christians. What do you have to be thankful for today?

Reflect

From Ed Stetzer, on The Exchange, a blog from Christianity Today.

One of the first chapters of scripture I memorized was Psalm 100. It was actually easy to memorize because it was put in the form of a song. It started, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye, all ye lands."

This psalm reminds me of the importance of thanksgiving... I find, however, that thanksgiving is one of the first things to be smothered when life deals us hard blows and the world seems to be crumbling around us. Our prayers, if they exist during times like these, take the form of pleas instead of praise. We lose sight of God's goodness in the midst of the dark.

But the Psalmist's words were a call to shout triumphantly because they were not fighting for victory, but they were fighting from victory. The same is true today.

It may not seem like it, but the Lord has won the battle. Our battles. We put on His armor and follow Him into the hard places. Yes, when we're in the midst of uncertainty, it may not seem as though God has won, but scripture reminds us over and over again that He has. That's a promise we cling to.

So what do we do with this knowledge? We are called to serve the Lord with gladness, to come before Him with joyful songs. We do so because God has made us new in Christ. He has transferred us from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of his beloved Son. The Psalmist acknowledges in verse 3 that *Yes, He is God, He has made us, we are His people, the sheep of His pasture!*

All thanksgivings flows from verse 3. We know who God is and how He approaches us and who we are in Him.

To read the rest of this devotional, go to

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2016/november/psalm-100-call-to-give-thanks.html>

Respond

What does it mean for you personally to fight *from* victory not *for* victory? How can you rejoice in the victory that you have in Jesus today?

Now that you've read Psalm 100 every day this week, you're probably on your way to having it memorized! Spend some time reading and reflecting on it again today. Commit it to memory so that you are reminded to always worship the Lord with gladness!