

## MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

## 5

**BACKGROUND  
SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 100

**A VERSE TO  
REMEMBER**

Know that the  
LORD is God.  
It is he that made  
us, and we are his;  
we are his people,  
and the sheep of his  
pasture.  
(Ps. 100:3)

**Daily Bible Readings**

<b>M</b>	Sept. 27	Ps. 95	Praise the Rock of Our Salvation
<b>T</b>	Sept. 28	Luke 19:28, 36–40	Stones Shout Out!
<b>W</b>	Sept. 29	1 Pet. 1:3–9	Indescribable and Glorious Joy
<b>Th</b>	Sept. 30	Ps. 98	Sing to God a New Song
<b>F</b>	Oct. 1	Heb. 13:12–16	A Continuous Sacrifice of Praise
<b>Sa</b>	Oct. 2	Ps. 66:1–7	Rejoice in God's Mighty Rule

**STEPPING INTO THE WORD**

**S**inging and hymns are inseparable from and integral to Christian worship. The psalms are part of our heritage, offering words for praise for the diversity of good things from God for which we can be thankful.

What we praise about the “gods” of our lives says a lot about us. As we step into the word this week, consider who or what you are praising with your life. Pressing this question can signal all sorts of causes for praise that we might not see otherwise. Our lives are filled with a variety of reasons for praising God, since God is present with us in mundane details as well as extraordinary events.

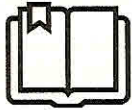
Moving to this lesson from daily life and its variety of tasks, activities, and demands, we leave a setting with competing calls for our attention and devotion to a time when we hold in common that to which we willingly give our devotion. The book of Psalms is the major text within Scripture that gives us a common language for understanding and worshipping God.

It's important to be aware of this shift from our daily concerns to a consideration of our view of God. If we are thoughtless about it, we might very well make God into the image of the values we hold apart from God. We might not see with clarity who God is for the world.

Psalm 100 opens the door for us to some of the most basic elements of why and how we worship God. How do we join

with the saints and apostles of every place and time in the praise of God?

*Holy God, I come before you today just as I am. Free me up that I might worship you, in response to your steadfast love. Amen.*



## SCRIPTURE

Psalm 100

**100:1** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God.

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

<sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

<sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

*Note:* Find Scripture Notes for this reading on the final page of the lesson.

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN

From the first line of Psalm 100, we are exalting God over all gods, all powers and principalities. The imperatives in the first few lines all signal the approach of the people to a monarch: “come before,” “gates,” and “courtyards.” The psalmist continues in praise emphasizing God’s identity and sovereignty. Because God is second to none, the psalmist is acknowledging that God remains sovereign over all, including over God’s people. God’s people would not exist apart from having been called and created by God.

As faithless as the people can be, they still strive to honor the God who is always faithful to them. The psalmist offers praise that goes beyond even the act of creating us because God claims us as belonging to God. We don’t belong as objects, though: We belong as sheep of God’s pasture.

So this psalm qualifies God’s kingship by characterizing God as a shepherd. We have almost surely read this same metaphor before in Psalm 23, which includes many of the same praises and

acknowledgements we read here in Psalm 100. Yahweh operates in such a way as to create a certain kind of life for the people of the realm. If we are sheep of God's pasture, then God, as king, is seeking our nourishment, thriving, and safety.

In the last lines we see acclamation of the Lord's goodness, loyal and eternal love, and constant faithfulness to the people ("to all generations"). The psalmist implies that worship entails reflecting the character of God, so that humans aspire to be good, loyal, loving, and faithful to God, as God is good, loyal, loving, and faithful to them. The whole people are invited into God's presence to offer praise and celebration—in joy!

Interestingly, this celebration and commitment to God through praise can be highlighted and emphasized in psalms of sorrow (Ps. 22), confession (Ps. 51), or demands for justice (Ps. 7). In all these psalms, God's sovereignty is acknowledged, for the psalmist turns to God no matter the human experience or feeling.



**What experiences and desires in your life lead to your praise of God?**

## **GOD'S RULE IS COMPASSIONATE**

If we are the sheep of God's pasture—if God the king is our shepherd—then God is the ultimate and only source of our wellbeing, our safety, our nourishment, our lives. God doesn't just say, "This is what you need." God says, "This is what you need" and then gives it to us. When human experience is riven by grief or oppression, we "sheep" look to God for an indication that things are not the way they're supposed to be. In daily life, grief and joy are intermingled. It is the whole human experience that belongs to God, and the whole human experience that God invites into fellowship and faithfulness.

Most Christian traditions of worship, including more charismatic ones, are grounded in a set of expectations of how worship should transpire. One set of these expectations seen to some degree in Protestant mainline denominations involves worshiping decently and in order. If we were to be honest with ourselves, we might admit that our heart, mind, and soul are a bit more unruly and a bit less in order than we would like. We may conclude that it is inappropriate to bring our unruliness or brokenness with us to worship. There may be the expectation on the

