

Psalm 100 (ESV): Thanksgiving

Main point: We can rejoice in God's goodness to us.

Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.

Background: "A psalm for giving thanks."

Focus of the study:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

² Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the Lord, he is God!

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

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the Lord is good;

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

Questions:

- This is a short little psalm but full of emotion! What are the first instructions the writer gives? (v. 1-2)*
 - Make a joyful noise to the Lord
 - Serve the Lord with gladness
 - Come into his presence with singing
- Who is the writer telling to do this?*
 - v. 1: all the earth
- What are the "happy words" that describe how we are to make noise, serve, and come into God's presence?*
 - joyful – note it doesn't say a good noise, just a joyful one 😊
 - gladness
 - with singing
- What does a joyful, glad, or singing noise sound like? Who and what make joyful noises?*
 - (generate lots of ideas here: children, birds, dogs, cats, breezes, rivers, orchestras, bands, trees, guitars, pianos....)
- How do those kinds of sounds make you feel?*
- v. 3: Why is everything in the earth supposed to be joyful, glad, and singing?*
 - v. 3: the Lord is God
 - we are His! We are his people, the sheep of his pasture
 - What are sheep like?* needy, followers
 - What are pastures like?* safe, abundant food, comfortable

- iii. *So how do we, as God's sheep, live in his care?*
 - 1. content, not afraid, safe, well taken care of
 - 7. *What's the next set of instructions?*
 - a. v. 4: enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise
 - b. give thanks to him
 - c. bless his name
 - i. *In this set, what are the action words?*
 - 1. enter (with thanksgiving and praise)
 - 2. give (thanks)
 - 3. bless (his name)
8. *Why?*
 - a. v. 5: FOR (because) the Lord is good
 - b. his steadfast love endures forever
 - c. his faithfulness is for all generations
9. *What are the words that describe God here?*
 - i. good, steadfast, faithful
 - 1. What is it like when someone is good to you? When someone is faithful to you?
10. *Who is God good to?*
 - a. all generations – past, present, future – that means YOU.
 - b. how have you seen his faithfulness in your life?
11. *What are you thankful for today?* [write responses down on slips of colored paper to make a Thanksgiving banner]
12. Ask for any other prayer requests for today.
13. Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
14. End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace