

## 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:

- <sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
- <sup>2</sup> Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!
- <sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God!  
It is God who made us, and we are his;  
we are the Lord's people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to God; bless his name!
- <sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

### Questions:

1. *This is a short little psalm but full of emotion! What are the first instructions the writer gives in verses 1-2? What are the verbs, the action words?*
  - a. Make a joyful noise to the Lord
  - b. Serve the Lord with gladness
  - c. Come into God's presence with singing
2. *Who is the writer telling to do this?*
  - a. v. 1: all the earth
3. *What are the "happy words" that describe how we are to make noise, serve, and come into God's presence?*
  - a. joyful – note it doesn't say a good noise, just a joyful one 😊
  - b. with gladness
  - c. with singing
4. *What does a joyful, glad, or singing noise sound like? Who and what make joyful noises?*
  - a. (generate lots of ideas here: children, birds, dogs, cats, breezes, rivers, orchestras, bands, trees, guitars, pianos....)
5. *How do those kinds of sounds make you feel?*
6. v. 3: *Why is everything in the earth supposed to be joyful, glad, and singing?*
  - a. v. 3: We KNOW, we remember, that the Lord is God
  - b. We are His! We are God's people, the sheep of his pasture
    - i. *What are sheep like?*
      1. Needy, followers, defenseless; no claws, not super bright, stay in a herd
    - ii. *What are pastures like?*
      1. Safe, abundant food, comfortable

*iii. So how do we, as God's sheep, live in God's care?*

1. Content, not afraid, safe we are well taken care of

7. *What's the next set of instructions, starting in verse 4?*

- a. v. 4: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise
- b. Give thanks to God
- c. Bless God's name

*i. In this set of instructions, what are the verbs, the action words?*

1. enter (with thanksgiving and praise)
2. give (thanks)
3. bless (his name)

8. *Why should we do these things?*

- 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, love*

1. *What is it like when someone is good to you? When someone is steadfast? When someone is faithful to you?*

10. *Who is God good to?*

- a. v. 5: all generations – past, present, future – that means YOU.

11. *How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?*

12. *What are you thankful for today?* [if possible, write responses down on slips of colored paper to make a Thanksgiving banner]

- Ask for any other prayer requests for today.
- Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace

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