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:
1 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 is God!
   It is God who made us, and we are his;
   we are the Lord’s people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4 Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving,
   and his courts with praise!
   Give thanks to God; bless his name!
5 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
Psalm 100

1 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 is God!
   It is God who made us, and we are his;
   we are the Lord’s people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4 Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving,
   and his courts with praise!
   Give thanks to God; bless his name!
5 For the Lord is good;
   his steadfast love endures forever,
   and his faithfulness to all generations.