

Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

June 11th

Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. The turtle fest parade is this week. If you could design your own personal float, what would it look like? What prize would you hand out?

Bible Study Questions

1. What comes to your mind when you think of the word “praise”?
2. Read Psalms 100
 - What attitudes are described as people are invited to worship?
 - What attitude do you generally have in worship?
 - What can we do to create a posture of celebration during worship?
3. Psalm 100 gives says that God is worthy of worship because of his goodness, his enduring love, and his faithfulness. What reasons come to your mind about why God is worthy of worship?
4. Read Psalms 93
 - This Psalms is a proclamation of praise. What all does it teach about God?
 - How does meditating on these words help position you for celebratory worship?
5. Pastor Michael spent some time talking about various popular worldviews that glorify self. Examples are the transgender movement that claims that we create our own identity. The abortion movement claims that we can do whatever we want with out bodies. The rugged individualist movement claims that our lives and possessions are ours alone to govern with little or no input from outside sources. How does mediating on God in the Psalms confront these worldviews?
6. If we really believe that God is God and we are not, how would that impact the way that we interact with our possessions, community, and many of the major issues of the day?

June 11th
Praise Psalms

More than a 60 psalms fit under the category of Praise Psalms. The purpose is to guide us in praise. This morning we are looking at them through the lens of Psalm 100

I. Psalm 100

- a. An invitation to joyfully worship our God:** The psalm has seven commands including shouting, coming, and entering into his presence. The message is that we should worship. But there is also a posture associated with it. We are to worship with gladness, joy, and celebration. It is to be a full response of love to our creator.
- b. Worship is the proper response to God's faithful love:** Verse 5 gives us the reason that God is good, his love endures forever, and that he is faithful. Because of his goodness, God is worthy of our worship.

II. Praise Psalms

- a. Creates a posture of celebration in our worship:** These prayers when properly used, should create a sense of celebration. They remind us of who God is and what he has done for us. It becomes the difference between one who does act of worship as a ritual and as one who truly wants to see God honored.
- b. Causes us to affirm a life in submission to the God who reigns:** Worship music is popular. The problem though is that many say the words but don't really believe it. It is becoming increasingly popular to believe that reality is something that we define for ourselves instead of something that we confirm to. On the left, it is said that your identity is fluid, depending on the emotions of the moment. The transgender movement is an example of this. You decide who you are. On the right, there is a rugged individualist movement in which we view our preferred way of living and possessions and being our kingdom of which no one else can mess with. Either views places ourselves as king. However, a proper use of praise psalms causes us to recognize that God is at the center of the universe. We respond and conform our lives to him.

I want to encourage everyone to seriously consider whether they are internalizing the words that they sing. Do they fully live as if God is king and both their identity and way of life are in submission to him.

Conclusion