

The Lord Is Praised

If you are getting the soap, I will give you a \$5 discount,” Courtlyn said. “Thank you so much.”

Once the customer took her bag and walked away from the table, Courtlyn turned around to resume talking to Alicia at their church’s Women in Business Fair.

“You have such a charmed life,” Alicia said. “A great husband, your own successful businesses, and a nice house. You have it all!”

Courtlyn was getting to know Alicia better since Courtlyn and her husband Montez had only just joined Abundant Faith Fellowship, four months ago.

“Well, to be honest, there’s a lot you don’t know,” Courtlyn said.

Courtlyn explained how, years ago, she had been in an abusive relationship. “The Lord rescued me from that situation and blessed me even more when He placed Montez into my life. But more importantly,” she added, “God delivered me from my destructive patterns and myself!”

Courtlyn shared about some of the difficult and unsustainable jobs she used to have. “This current job is a blessing,” she said. “There’s not a lot of drama and stress at work, and I’m able to fund my hair and skin business.”

“Oh, I didn’t realize you have had it so rough,” Alicia said.

“I’m only sharing this to show you how faithful God has been to me,” Courtlyn said. “The Lord has taken good care of me and continues to do so. I will always praise His name, because He is great, and He is worthy!”

1. Why is it important to know basic truths about God’s character?

2. How can knowing God’s character encourage those who don’t know Him?

3. Who do you need to tell about God and His character?

LESSON FOCUS: Tell of your king’s glory, protection, and deliverance.

Tell of the Glory of the King

Psalms 145:1 KJV

David's Psalm of praise.
1 I will extol thee, my
God, O king; and I will
bless thy name forever
and ever.

Psalms 145:1 NIV

A psalm of praise. Of David.
1 I will exalt you, my God the
King;
I will praise your name forever
and ever.

The psalmist begins by exalting God, saying that he will sing the praises of God's name forever and ever. In the ancient Near Eastern world, when someone blessed another's name, they were praising their character. Blessing God's name refers to continuously speaking well of and honoring God's attributes and deeds. It represents an ongoing commitment to worship God and acknowledge His goodness.

This is the final psalm with a heading that could mean "by David" or "for David." It shows the humility of the king of Israel to be praising the name of God as the real king. King David could have exalted himself, but he chose the rightful place of submission to the one true God and king.

4. *What is the significance of addressing God as king (v. 1)?*

5. *What does the psalmist mean by "blessing God's name" forever and ever?*

An Everlasting Kingdom

Psalms 145:10–13 KJV

10 All thy works shall
praise thee, O LORD; and
thy saints shall bless thee.
11 They shall speak of the
glory of thy kingdom, and
talk of thy power;
12 To make known to the
sons of men his mighty

Psalms 145:10–13 NIV

10 All your works praise you,
LORD;
your faithful people extol you.
11 They tell of the glory of your
kingdom
and speak of your might,
12 so that all people may know of
your mighty acts

acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

The psalmist intends to praise God “forever and ever” according to verse 1, and verse 10 continues by choosing to dwell on all of God’s “works,” which the psalmist sets in parallel with God’s “people.” God created a people who are able to sing out and praise Him. God’s works include His creation, His care and providence for the universe, His miraculous deeds, and His acts of justice and mercy.

Verses 11–12 describe the content of creation’s proclamation of God’s glory. Everything God has done tells of His glory and might so that all people might come to see and know the mighty acts of God.

Verse 13 lets the reader peek behind the curtain to see the splendor of the kingdom of God. Unlike the kings and kingdoms of this world, the kingdom of God is everlasting and without end. While other kingdoms may totter on the edge of destruction when faced with their enemies, God’s kingdom endures forever throughout all generations. The king of this kingdom is not a self-indulgent king, but the Lord, almighty God, is trustworthy. God always keeps His promises, and He is faithful in all that He does.

The final lines of v. 13 of the NIV are supplied by the Dead Sea Scrolls and other manuscripts which weren’t used in the making of the KJV.

6. *How does verse 10 connect to verse 1 in Psalm 145?*

7. *What do verses 11–12 suggest about the purpose of God’s glory and might?*

8. *How is the kingdom of God described, and how does it differ from the kingdoms of this world?*

God's Provision, Protection, and Deliverance

Psalm 145:14–21 KJV

14 The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

15 The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

16 Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

20 The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Psalm 145:14–21 NIV

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.

¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.
Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Verse 14 begins by saying that God cares for those “who fall” and “who are bowed down.” Those “who fall”

likely includes anyone overwhelmed by circumstances or by temptation. Those who are “bowed down” can also include people who are oppressed by society and rulers or who carry heavy burdens.

The Lord is the good and gracious king who gives everyone their daily bread. These verses emphasize that living creatures are dependent on God for their sustenance, and He generously provides for the needs and satisfies the desires of all things.

God is faithful in keeping His promises and caring for everyone who looks to Him. He is the reason that every creature takes breath, moment by moment. He causes the earth to continue to spin. He is the reason that the sun rises every morning. He is the faithful ruler, righteous and just in all He does. God is accessible and responsive to those who cry out to Him. He is near to all who call on Him. He cares for His creation and wants them to humble themselves before Him and ask for help (v. 18).

While God protects and provides for those who humbly rely on Him, He destroys the arrogant. This reminds us of God’s justice and judgment against wickedness, even as He is ready to forgive all who repent. As a good and righteous king, God executes judgment on behalf of His people, sometimes through providential circumstances. God is ready to forgive and wrap the wicked into his loving care, if only they would call on Him for help.

The psalmist concludes by recounting his commitment to praise God, while also inviting all of creation to join him in this eternal act of thanksgiving. God is a glorious king.

9. *What does verse 14 tell us about God’s nature and His care for all His creatures?*

10. *How does God respond to those who call on Him?*

11. *How does the psalmist conclude in verse 21, and why is this significant?*

Speak the Word

“Mr. McCain died.” These words hit me like a hammer in my stomach. Mr. McCain was my boss for five years, and I never asked him about his relationship with Jesus. Yes, Mr. McCain knew that I lived differently from the other youth that worked for him. He respected my character and trustworthiness, but I never spoke to him about God.

Mr. McCain’s sudden death revealed to me that I could live a life exhibiting Jesus’ character, but unless I share the Word of God to those around me, it would not provide an opportunity for any person to decide to accept Jesus as Savior. We say that words need to be met with actions, but I learned that my words must accompany my actions. Without actually sharing how Jesus Christ changed my life and guides my actions, others will never know.

Truthfully, it’s easier for me to just live my life than to sit down and talk about my walk with God. Fear of rejection or being misunderstood hinders me from sharing about God and what He has done for me through Jesus Christ. I have had to learn to pray for boldness from the Holy Spirit to bring the conversation to spiritual things with friends, colleagues, and especially employers.

I try to remember that my responsibility is to share of God’s work in my life and to let God handle the rest, and that posture releases some of my fear. Whether the person listens and responds positively is not up to me. I need to be obedient and speak about Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection and trust God to move in the person’s heart.

12. *What are some major truths that should be shared when telling others about God?*

13. *What are some obstacles that keep us from sharing with those in authority about who God is and what He has done for us?*

14. *Why is it important both to live a life for Jesus and share Him with others?*

Words and Actions

Throughout the Bible, especially the Psalms, we are instructed to tell others about God and His glory. Yet fear, lack of knowledge, and other hindrances can often keep us from telling what He has done for us.

- ▶ *Write down several reasons why you should tell others about God and all that He has done in your life.*

- ▶ *Ask God to give you the names of some people whom you should take the initiative to tell about God and His glory this week. Write their names.*

- ▶ *Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open up opportunities for you to talk with these people this week.*

KEY VERSE

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. —Psalm 145:13 KJV

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. —Psalm 145:13 NIV

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

Week of January 20 through January 26

(See *The Quiet Hour* and *Cross* devotionals on these passages.)

- Mon.** Daniel 2:31–45—The Kingdoms of This World
- Tue.** Colossians 1:9–20—The Kingdom of God's Son.
- Wed.** Colossians 1:21–29—Christ in You, the Hope of Glory.
- Thu.** Zechariah 14:8–11, 16–21—The Lord Reigns over the Earth.
- Fri.** Hebrews 12:18–29—An Unshakable Kingdom.
- Sat.** Matthew 6:25–34—Seek First God's Kingdom.
- Sun.** Psalm 145:1–13a, 17–21—Bless God's Name Forever.