

Leader Notes – Lesson 2 – "The Invitation is Open" Psalm 95 & 100

PLEASE DON'T READ THESE NOTES UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR LESSON.
YOU WILL ROB YOURSELF OF THE JOY OF DISCOVERY!

These are some comments, etc. on the lesson.
Don't try to include everything and you may not need to use any of the below!
I make these comments to clarify and give some additional thoughts and suggestions.

In case you don't have time to discuss all the questions, be sure to ask your group which questions they want to make sure they get to.

Read the scripture out loud:

Since this is poetry, you might consider reading the scripture with this pattern:

Psalm 95

All in Unison – verse 1-2

Reader A: verses 3-5

All: verses 6-7

Reader B: verses 8-11

Psalm 100

Reader A: 1-2

All: 3

Reader B: 4-5

Question # 2: Ask about favorite verses. What translations does your group like?

Question # 3: How many similarities did your group find?

Question # 4: Below is my answer for this question, but see what your group came up with. Prompt them with questions if they don't see what the phrase suggests.

Come, let us . . . Let us, come . . . Come . . .

The phrase suggests:

- We're invited to worship (praise & thanksgiving)
- Worship is something we can do together
- Worship is a choice
- Worship is something we DO – it's a verb
- Come – leave what you are doing – come and do something different

Question # 5:

Exto1 – *praise somebody with great enthusiasm and admiration* (95:2)

Are we supposed to take these suggestions literally?

Do you think these activities are necessary in order to fulfill the greatest commandment?
(Matthew 22:36-38)

Question # 6:

Encourage several to share their answers

Would it be easier or harder to do these activities with someone or alone?

Definition for Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship.

The whole point of all these activities is **intimacy**. God wants to be **with** us because he loves us.

Richard Foster is his book *Prayer* says this:

We usually think of a tryst as a prearranged meeting with lovers. How appropriate! The trysting prayer (worship) is our special date with God. We can be free and at ease because we are entering into the heart's true home. Our Eternal Lover lures us back regularly into his presence with anticipation and delight. It is not hard to honor this regular time of meeting, for the language of lovers is the language of waste. We are glad to waste time with God, for we are pleased with the company.

Question # 7:

What effect does music have on a person? Who made us to respond to music? Ask your group how they use music in their life. Why do you think God gave us music? Praise and worship music is a great aid in helping us enter worship. Have your group tell what some of their favorite praise and worship music is. It could be that there are some in your group who have not be exposed to praise music. Perhaps there could be some lending and borrowing of CDs! Also mention any Christian radio stations that play music (K-LOVE 94.3)

Question #8 – First ♥ question: Consider **1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-2**

What if we don't feel like giving praise and thanksgiving? Read Psalm 100 in *The Message* and see if you can see what it is we should do?

Does praise and worship depend on our circumstances?

Question # 9 – All the ♥ questions are important. This also relates back to the Discussion Starter. Considering he is our Creator and he made everything, how rude and ungrateful to not give him thanks, praise and worship!

Question # 10:

Our contemporary culture says:

"It's all about me"

"Look out for #1"

"Eat, drink and be merry! Tomorrow you may die!"

"I answer to no one!"

"Go ahead – whose going to know?"

"If you don't care of yourself, no one will!"

And the list goes on . . . See how many of these types of saying and beliefs your group can come up with from just advertising alone!

♥ Question: *What difference will it make in a person's life if they accept these truths?*

I was referring to the truths in **Psalm 100:3**, but the question can be answered by referring to the values listed in the ♥ question. Either way, what you believe effects how you live.

Question 11 & 12: Have fun thoroughly exploring the metaphors for God:

What can we expect from a "Rock who keeps us safe"?

What do subjects owe a King and what does a King do for his subjects?

What can we expect from God is we are the sheep in his pasture?

Question 15:

When considering the concept or "rest", you might want to look at **Jeremiah 6:16** and **Matthew 11:28,29**.

Response: [Question 16 and following](#)

Be sure to leave some time to have several to share their answer from **Question 16**.

Did anyone take a Praise Walk? If not, **take one this week** and report back to your group next week. The whole earth is full of his glory! God purposely reveals himself in nature.

Names for God

You'll see in scripture, that sometimes God is called God, Lord or LORD. These names indicate different names for God in the original language, Hebrew. Below are some meanings:

God – *EL* in Hebrew – means Almighty One

Lord – *Adonai* in Hebrew – means Sovereign Lord, Master

LORD – *Yaweh* or *Jehovah* in Hebrew – means Self-existent one, eternal, Covenant-maker