

Praise Helps Us to See Things in God's Lenses

Week 3 (27th Aug 2023):

The Big Point: Praise Helps us to See Things in God's Lenses

God's Word: Psalm 149

Memory Verse: Sing to the Lord. Praise him. Day after day tell about how he saves us.

Psalm 96:2 (NIRV)

Application: I will praise God to see things in God's lenses!

Series Aim: To help kids to understand the power of praise and how it helps us know God more!

Note: There is no creative video for this week.

TEACHER'S WORD STUDY!

♥ CENTER YOUR HEART!

Why we do what we do

In this series, we are looking into "praise", what it actually is and how it packs a punch of God's power! Praise is not just the time when we sing fast songs to God, but praise is an expression of faith and has power to bring us to God's presence and is an act of loving God. Praise brings us to know God even more and is a weapon to fight the enemy and forces of darkness! How awesome is God and praising Him!

Series Aim: To help kids to understand what praise is and the power of praise!

♥ Prayer Points

Keep the Kids and the Kingdom in our hearts!

Let's pray for the following (and feel free to add on your own!) :

- Kids learn what praise really is - expressing faith, love and thanksgiving to God because of who He is, what He has done, and what He will do.
- Kids learn that praise to God has to be expressed and made known.
- Kids learn that praise brings us into God's presence and God's promises.
- Kids learn that praise brings us to know God more.
- Kids learn that praise is a weapon against satan.
- Kids learn that praising God helps us to see things as God does.
- Kids learn to be aware of how God is with them even in everyday life and outside church or activities revolving around church.

♥ Glossary

Explain using the same terms and language!

Praise: Praise is an expression of admiration, love, respect and thanksgiving to God for all that He is, all that He has done and all that He will do.

Express: To make known one's thoughts and feelings. When we express praise to God, we are making known our thoughts and feelings of love to God and the people around us.

🔍 GROW DEEP ROOTS!

Understand the Big Point's focus

In this Pow-Wow Praise series, we have been learning that Praise is so much more than the fast songs segment of a church service. Praise is simply an expression of admiration and respect for God and all that He is, all that He has done, and for all that He will be doing in our future! Praise is based on who God is and not on our situations because God never changes. Just like how our series memory verse tells us, **“Sing to the Lord. Praise him. Day after day tell about how he saves us. Psalm 96:2 (NIRV)”** When a person knows God and all the amazing impressive things He does, one can't help but to simply express praise!

In week 1, we learnt how **Praise Helps Us to Enter God's Promises**, because when we praise God, it shows that we trust Him and believe in what He says He will do. This faith pleases God and helps us to enter into the promise given, just like how Joshua and Caleb were the only ones to enter the Promised Land when they praised God and focused on the goodness of God and goodness of the land after spying on it. **Praise Helps Us to Enter God's Promises.**

In week 2, we learnt that **Praise is a weapon that defeats Satan**. When we praise God, we are stepping into a greater awareness of God's presence. Our praise invites more and more of God's presence and shows that He is enthroned as our King. This praise expresses our faith that not only lets others know of God's goodness and majesty, but also makes Satan cower in fear and confusion, leaving him defeated. **Praise is a weapon that defeats Satan.**

In this last week of our Pow-Wow Praise series, we will learn as an extension of the past two weeks, that **Praise Helps Us to see things in God's Lenses**, aligning us to see things as God sees.

Object lesson: Sunglasses

Praise is just like sunglasses. When you put on a pair of sunglasses, everything you see through the sunglasses is tinted and it looks darker than it is. Praise helps us to see things

as how God sees it, and it helps us realise that God is more present and at work than we can ever know.

Read Psalm 149

Psalm 149 is a hymn of praise, calling the people to praise God and to know that the faithful will one day be God's agents of judgement through the world. Here, God's people call one another to praise God and to sing to Him a new song. The tone is one of jubilant and exuberant praise, in gladness, rejoicing, dancing and making melody. When God's people call upon God as their Maker and King, God is sure to let His presence be known and felt.

First, let's remember that the Word of God is a sword (Galatians 6:17) and it has power to cut through the lies of the devil. When we praise God, it is God's Word, God's promises and God's characteristics expressed out for all to hear. It helps us remember who God is in our lives. Praise is thus, powerful, active and aggressive. It cuts down our enemy before he can do any damage to us and reminds us of God's truth. **Praise Helps Us to see things in God's Lenses.**

Psalm 146:6-9 is of special interest to us because it tells us that when we praise God with our mouths,

- We also hold in our hands a sword with two edges
- We pay the nations back for what they did and punish the people of the earth
- We punish the kings and nobles if they had not lived in God's ways and praise is what will bring us into victory.

That is also the reason why praise is such a powerful weapon that defeats Satan. Praise is able to chain down powers and principalities, tear down strongholds and pay the vengeance of God against Satan. Satan is simply defenseless against it because his greatest strategy is to lie. However, praise is pure truth, telling us of God's character. As long as we praise God according to the Bible, we can praise our way out of Satan's lies, out of Satan's discouraging words that make us doubt ourselves, and also make clear of God's truth in who He is, in what He thinks of us and His plans for us. **Praise Helps Us to see things in God's Lenses.**

Psalm 8:2 - Children in fact, can bring to God the greatest and most powerful of praise if you will simply believe what you are saying/singing, expecting God to be what He says He is and what He says He'll do. Psalm 8:2 tells us that children's praise silences the enemy. So no matter how young, know that your praise to God holds power to defeat the enemy and helps us to **see things in God's lenses.**

In order to see things in God's lenses, and to see the things of God's Kingdom happen on earth, we must do on earth the things that are being done in God's Kingdom - and that is simply praise. Praise is the only thing that we know will definitely happen, and is happening at every point of every day: that God is on the throne being praised.

As human beings who are living on earth, we are bound in this tunnel called time and thus, we find it hard to see things beyond the situations we are in. We walk through our tough times and difficulties and we find it hard to look beyond the situations we are in, and so we react to the things around us in fear of what will happen next.

And yet we see there is another way through praise. We see this in Caleb and Joshua's story, praise of God helps them remember God, remember God's promise and enter into God's promise. We see this in King Jehoshaphat's story, praise and prayer helps him to remember God, to invite God's presence, to enthrone God as King, and trust in God rather than the threats of Satan. In the end, God threw the enemies into confusion and caused them to destroy each other. All because in all of these situations, Caleb, Joshua and King Jehoshaphat chose praise and that helped them to **see things in God's lenses**.

Praise slaps Satan's lying lips, makes his lies and accusations useless. (Isaiah 54:17). It takes down every argument and every pretension that sets us itself against God and helps make every thought obey the truth of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). **Praise Helps Us to see things in God's Lenses.**

Praise also lifts our eyes out of our valleys and sets us on the mountain of God, it gives us an aerial view of eternity because it helps us to see what God sees.

Optional Analogy: Parade

Have you ever been to a parade or seen one on TV? Matching bands, giant balloons, dancers and mascots walking and waving at the crowd. Some people might even watch a parade from the top of tall buildings to get the best view.

Imagine if you are in the marching band - you wouldn't be able to see the front of the parade or the back of the parade, but just the people next to you. Now imagine if you are one of the people watching the parade from the top of a tall building. From up high, you will get to see the entire parade: front, middle and back!

As a person living on earth, we are like the person in the marching band, only able to see what is happening right around us. But God is on a different level and a different height, like the person watching the parade from up high. He is above "time" and can see the beginning, middle and end! God has the best view, so we can trust God always knows

what will happen next! When we praise God, we are learning to see things like God does, and it helps us to trust God and His plans, His knowledge.

God is always with us, and when we go to Him in praise, prayer and trust, it helps us to see things in God's ways. Just like in 2 Kings 6:16-17. The prophet Elisha was surrounded by enemy armies and yet he was unflinching, knowing that God and God's army of angels were with him. When Elisha's servant showed his fear, Elisha prayed for his eyes to be opened to see that they were surrounded by God and God's army of angels.

Praise gives heaven's perspectives on our situations as it helps us see what God sees. It helps us believe that God is with us and that this enemy we are facing on earth is already doomed to be destroyed forever. We, on the other hand, are destined not for defeat, but for victory in God and to dwell in the house of our Lord forever (Psalm 23:6) - in eternity with our God. Praise puts us in agreement with the way God sees things. **Praise Helps Us to see things in God's Lenses.**

Link to Gospel

Praise is an action and expression of faith because it is rooted in who God is and the knowledge of what He has done, regardless of the situation we are in. When we find ourselves in unpleasant and sticky situations, look to the Bible and choose praise, remembering that you already have a reason to praise God, and it is in how God sent Jesus to save us from sin by dying on the cross. Choose praise, because it is what will help us see God's perspective and what God sees.



CHECK YOUR HEART'S TEMPERATURE!

Reflect and Challenge

As people limited by the dimension of time, we sometimes get fixated on what we see in our situations and circumstances. This is why we need to lift up our eyes to see God and praise Him, to remind us of who He is, of His power, of what He has done, and what He will do. Praise is the thing that is able to help us to see what God sees and that helps us to live in trust and surrender to Him,

- How has your understanding of praise been strengthened through this whole series on Pow-Wow Praise?
- How do you think you are able to bring back the spirit of praise to your everyday life, and especially to your difficult moments and situations?