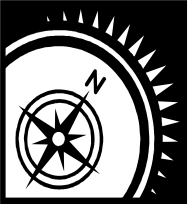


A Journey in
Discipleship

NOVEMBER 2007

BEP SMALLGROUP PARTICIPANT'S STUDY



How Do I Meet with Jesus with Others?

Week One: Nov 4-10

Psalm 145 (ESV)

¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. ³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. ⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. ⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, ¹² to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶ You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰ The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. ²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

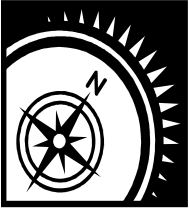
Psalm 145

Instead of discussing the text this week, we will spend this time together meditating and worshiping God through the text.

✂ **Instructions:** Divide the twenty one verses of Psalm 145 among those who are willing to read aloud and pray. Start at the beginning and each person read their portion slowly, stopping to respond to what is said. This will create a rhythm of reading aloud and praying. If there is some attribute or act of God to be praised, the person reading should stop and praise God in prayer. If you sense that the text speaks to some sin in your life, personally or corporately, stop to confess. If it gives an instruction or command, stop to ask for guidance to the specific application in your life. Read and pray slowly, concentrating and listening for what God says to you in the text.

(Suggestion: Look at the text through lens of what Christ has done for you on the cross and your new identity in Him.)

✂ **Discussion:** What you have just done is biblical meditation. You meditated on the attributes and actions of God and their weight upon your life as they are revealed in his Word. **Discuss your experience and explain how it was positive or negative.**



How Do I Meet with Jesus with Others?

Week Two: Nov 11-17

Read Psalm 95.

Psalm 95 (ESV)

¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹ when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. ¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways." ¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."

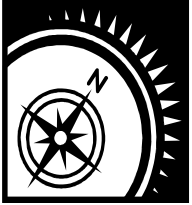
- ☞ v.3-5. If the first two verses give us the 'what?' of worship, these next three verses give us the 'why?' of worship. (The word "for" or "because" at the beginning of v.3 shows us this.) Why are we to worship him?
- ☞ v.6-7b. After the praise and rejoicing of the first 5 verses, a different note is struck. a) Compare and contrast the call of v.1 and v.6. Why the difference? b) How does vv.6-7 follow naturally from vv.1-5?
- ☞ v.7c-11. This passage of warning seems dissonant at first reading. a) What does it tell us about how we are supposed to worship? b) Imagine this is a third stage to an act of worship, after vv.1-5 (praise) and vv.6-7 (repentance). What is this stage? c) What does the summons to 'rest' have to do with worship and hearing God's word in faith? (read Heb.4:1-13)

Discussion:

- ☞ In Hebrews 4, the concept of "rest" communicates both the idea resting in Christ alone for our salvation and our eternal rest with him in heaven. How do these two ideas affect your worship?

Analysis:

- ☞ v.1-2. These two verses seem very familiar (we may have heard them often). But they are packed with facts about worship. What do we learn about what worship is and how we are to do it?



How Do I Meet with Jesus with Others?

Week Three: Nov 18-24

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

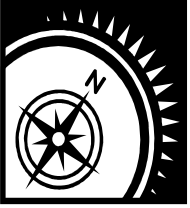
perception of the imagery in Psalm 100?
How? How does this shape our thinking
about corporate worship?

Discussion:

- ☞ This Psalm charges us to sing & and to serve with gladness. Can we be willing worshipers without being willing servants in ministry? What is the connection between worship & service?
- ☞ On two occasions in this series the Psalmist charges the people to “sing a new song” (96:1 & 98:1). Turn to Revelation 5:9 and describe “the new song” and the details of this King’s throne room. What is the role of the Gospel message in motivating us for worship? Can we worship God accurately & appropriately with out a growing understanding & appreciation of the Gospel message? Why or Why not?

Analysis:

- ☞ Choose one person to read Psalm 100. Then choose seven people to each read Psalm 93-99. Have each person read their Psalm, then have the original person read Psalm 100 again. This make take a while but it will be worth the effort!
- ☞ What things are repeated and emphasized in these seven Psalms?
- ☞ These Psalms are thought to be a series expressing God’s reign and kingly administration. With this in mind, does this shape your



How Do I Meet with Jesus with Others?

Week Four: Nov 25-Dec 1

Read Psalm 63

Psalm 63 (ESV)

¹ O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. ³ Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. ⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁵ My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, ⁶ when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; ⁷ for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. ⁸ My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. ⁹ But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; ¹⁰ they shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. ¹¹ But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped. TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

Analysis:

There is a four or five part movement in this passage. Describe each part of this passage .

Discussion

☞ Vs 1-2. Why is it difficult to seek God or worship God when we are in a “dry land?” Describe the negative & positive dynamics of worship when you are spiritually dry.

☞ Vs 3-5 These verses reveal two aspects of worship. It describes blessing and praising God as well as being personally satisfied with God. What is the relationship between these two concepts? How do we know when we have crossed the line from God centered worship into man centered worship?

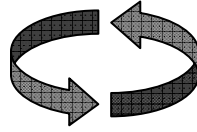
☞ 6-8 The night watches were the most vulnerable time for attack, yet David feels as safe as a chick in the shadows of its mother’s wing. Describe the negative & positive dynamics of worship when you feel vulnerable.

☞ Vs 9-11 David’s worship happens in the context of real life turmoil and stress. Describe the dynamics of worship during turmoil in your life.

☞ There are at least three principles reiterated throughout this passage. Worship is a response to who God is and what He has done. Worship is not about us, but it is about sincere desire. Worship happens in the context of real life. What are other thoughts from this passage emphasized?

BEP Adult Ministry

A simple process of discipleship



WORSHIP TOGETHER

Sunday Worship

Set up/ Ushers/ Greeters /Enfolding Team/
Reception Team/Worship Teams/AV Team

LEARN TOGETHER

Adult Christian Education

Journey in the Word/ W2W & Men's Ministry
Bible Studies/Discipleship Series

SERVE TOGETHER

Ministries & Missions

Deaconate/ Deacon's Assistants/My Brother's
Pantry /Boys & Girls Club/ Habitat for Human-
ity/ Car Clinic/Fifth Quarter/ Family Club/ Tues-
day Open Gym /Karate Club/Missions

LIVE TOGETHER

Small Groups & Church Fellowships

Small Groups

Couples/ W2W/ Men's / Divorce Care/ College& Career

Church Fellowships