

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

Psalm 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.

Psalm 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

Psalm 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

Psalm 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.

¹³ Your 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²¹My 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.

GOD'S KINGDOM HAS NO END

Each person in Jesus' lineage is a testament to God's faithfulness and His redemptive plan for His creation. Since the very beginning, God had in mind to rescue His people and establish an everlasting kingdom. It wouldn't be someone else who would show up to save His people; it would be God in the flesh. With the benefit of looking back on all of Scripture and Israel's history, we see that God's reign as king is a consistent expectation and hope. Even in times of struggle and exile, God's people could look forward to a future when evil and injustice would come to an end.

Ruth lived during the era of the judges, when "Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit" (Judg. 21:25). Without God-honoring rulers, the people were suffering in a time of famine. Naomi's family experienced more hardship than most, and she lost almost everything. But her widowed daughter-in-law made the countercultural decision to stand by Naomi. Ruth was a Moabite woman, but people marveled at her loyalty to her mother-in-law, calling her "better . . . than seven sons" (Ruth 4:15). God showed faithfulness to this family and blessed them with a child, Obed, who became the grandfather of Israel's King David.

God's people had suffered under the wrong sort of king, one named Saul. Even though Saul had some success as a military leader, it wasn't Saul who stood up to a Philistine army and a giant who mocked the living God. God chose the shepherd boy, David, to be His future king—one after His own heart (1 Sam. 13:14). God's chosen king wasn't perfect, still God promised that His "love will never be taken away" from David's descendant, that David's "house and [his] kingdom will endure forever" (2 Sam. 7:15–16).

The poetry and hymns of God's people find comfort and trust in God's reign: "the LORD is king forever and ever" (Ps. 10:16). God cares for people who are hurting by "[considering] their grief and [taking] it in hand" (Ps. 10:14). He topples the schemes of the wicked and enacts justice against evil, even those deeds "that would not otherwise be found out" (Ps. 10:15). He is the eternal and all-powerful king, one who is "compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love" (Ps. 103:8). God's people can praise His righteous name, for His "mighty acts" are worthy to be shared (Ps. 145:10–13).

After years of waiting, when the son of Zechariah was born, Zechariah echoed these psalms and praises for God's salvation: the God who protects and rescues "has come to his people and redeemed them" (Luke 1:68). John would become the "prophet of the Most High" and "give his people the knowledge of salvation" (Luke 1:76–77). John wasn't himself the king, but he would prepare the people of God for something big: an arrival of a king who could bring freedom and redemption of sin.

God's arrival as king came in the most unexpected way. While ordinary shepherds cared for their sheep at night, an angel appeared. This announcing angel and the armies of heaven shared of a newborn king, a Savior who was to be found—not in a palace—but in a manger beside Mary and Joseph. The rightful ruler of heaven and earth was born in David's town of Bethlehem, but the coming of the Messiah was humbler than anyone had imagined. Only God could rescue His people, and only God would arrive like this.

When Jesus was a man and was walking to the city of Jericho, it was a person who was blind who really "saw" Him for who He was, the Son of David—God's Messiah (Luke 18:38). In that moment, the king of creation showed compassion on a man who was poor, and Jesus healed his eyesight. In doing this, Christ showed His power and authority. The kingdom of God means good news for all, but it is especially good news for the downtrodden and those eager to be healed.



The road connecting Jerusalem and Jericho, where Jesus was stopped by a man who was blind (Luke 18:35), was well-trodden around festival celebrations.

אליעזר שורץ, ירושלים



This photo shows kestrel chicks—birds of the desert of Negev—being fed. Psalm 145:15 says that God "gives [all living things] their food at the proper time."

MinoZig



Zechariah calls Jesus a "horn of salvation" (Luke 1:69). Animal horns show power and strength, and the one in this photo has been turned into an instrument.

Zachi Evenor



Modern-day Nazareth is no longer the rural town like in Jesus' youth. In John 1:46, Nathaniel remarks, "Can anything good come from there?"

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The distance of heaven above earth is mentioned in Psalm 103:11, and this is how far the love and mercy of God reaches "for those who fear him."

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An eleventh-century painting from a church in France depicts God's defense of the vulnerable when He drowned Pharaoh's attacking army in the Red Sea.

vioandronico2013 (San Gimignano)



This photo shows a field of barley, like the one that Ruth was allowed to glean. There she met her future husband, Boaz. They became the great-grandparents of David.

Gerda Arendt



This photo shows one of the great cedars of Lebanon, whose wood was imported and used to construct David's palace and later, Solomon's temple.

© Vyacheslav Argenberg



Psalm 93:3 mentions the "voice" of flooding waves as they pound the shore. The sea is an image of immense power, and God is mightier still.

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By Roslyn Yilpet

Sharing God's Glory

Read the acrostic and verses below on how we can share God's glory with others, then answer and discuss the question.

G—guide others to a decision about Jesus.

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. . . . But as from me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). When telling others about God's glory, it's important to emphasize that an individual decision must be made. Knowledge without application is worthless.

L—listen to questions.

“To answer before listening—that is folly and shame” (Proverbs 18:13). It's vital that you listen to questions when sharing with others about God.

O—obey the Holy Spirit's leading.

“At that time, you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you” (Matt. 10:19–20). Don't fear when obeying the Holy Spirit's leading to share God's glory; He will give you the words to say.

R—remember it's the Holy Spirit who changes hearts.

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Ps. 51:10). Your responsibility is to tell the person about God's glory; it's the Holy Spirit who will do the work within that person's heart.

Y—you are chosen to share His glory with others.

“But you are a chosen people . . . that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9). It's a privilege to be personally chosen by God to share His glory with others.

Which part of this acrostic do you need to apply the most when sharing with others about God's glory?

Pray by asking God to enable you to apply these truths to your life as you boldly go and share with others about God's glory.