

Bible Study

Psalm 147 Praise to the LORD

It's easy to see from an initial reading of Psalm 147 that it is a Psalm of praise to God. A closer reading reveals the psalmist's motive and reasons for writing this psalm of praise. It also reveals the response God desires from those who praise him for all the many reasons for offering praise to God.

Start by everyone in the group reading the Psalm silently and then read it aloud as a group.

1. In verse 1 the Psalmist exuberantly declares his enthusiasm for offering praise to God. Before we look at the content of the Psalmist praise why do you think it is good, pleasant and fitting to praise God?
2. What do you think could be the biblical background to verses 2 and 3?

3. What does verses 2 and 3 tell us about what God is like, or how he behaves towards his people?

4. Verses 4 and 5 praise God for another reason, what is it?

5. How are verses 4 and 5 related to verses 2 and 3?

6. What response does verse 6 indicate God desires in those who praise him?

7. What is God praised for in verses 8 and 9?

8. What does verse 8 and 9 tell us about what God is like, or how he relates to his creation, to people?

9. Verses 10 and 11 give us another hint about what God values and what kind of response he seeks in those who worship him, what is it?

10. In verse 12 the psalmist addresses God's people Israel or Zion. What reasons are given for why Zion should praise God in verses 13 and 14?

11. How does God achieve his purposes in verses 15 to 18?

12. What special blessing does God reserve for his people in verse 19 and 20 and how does this indicate God's desires to relate to his people ?

13. Looking at the Psalm as a whole what is the chief attitude of his people that cause them to respond to God in praise?

14. How much time do you spend praising God in prayer, in song, in your conversation? How could praising God be a bigger part of your life?

15. Do we praise God enough in our church services?