

A Song of Thanksgiving

Psalm 100 - day 1

Foundation

Bible passage: Psalm 100

In the previous unit we looked at how one leper returned to thank Jesus and did so using words. Luke writes that he was “praising God with a loud voice” and that he fell at Jesus’ feet “giving him thanks. Praise can be said or sung but in this and coming units we are going to think about how we can “Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving” (Psalm 147.7).

Of the 150 Psalms in the Book of Psalms most have a title in all the Hebrew manuscripts. These shouldn't be confused with the titles often added to English printings by the publishers. Whilst many of the Psalms express thanks to God only one mentions thanks in the title - Psalm 100, which is called “A Psalm of Thanksgiving”.

The Psalm is at least 2,500 years old and has been used in Christian worship for nearly 2,000 years. In the old Church of England Morning Prayer service, which is still widely used, either this Psalm, or the song of Mary, was to be said or

Verse 1 and chorus:

Oh, shout for joy unto the Lord,
Worship Him with gladness.
Let all the earth bring songs of praise,
Telling of His greatness,
Know that the Lord we praise is God;
He is God our Maker,
And we are His, a people called
Sheep within His pasture.

*Oh, enter in His gates with praise.
His courts with great thanksgiving;
For He is good, His love endures
Morning after morning.*

sung at each service. It is often known, from the opening words in the Latin translation, as the “Jubilate Deo”.

The modern song, “Oh Shout for Joy”, by Keith and Kristyn Getty is based on the Psalm and is described as “the new one hundredth”. In this unit help the children learn verse 1 and the



“Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!”

chorus and in the next unit, verses 2 and 3.

Use the Psalm to think about what the writer mentions as reason to give thanks and praise. Then look at how the Gettys reflected that in their song.

Booklet:

What did the Psalmist give thanks for? - Because the Lord is God (v3). Because He has made us (v3). Because of His steadfast love and faithfulness (v5).

Reflection:

We can give thanks for exactly the same things as the Psalmist. What other things might we give thanks for?



We should give thanks not just for things we have but because of who God is, that He has made us and loves us.