

Songs for the Climb Concluded

Psalm 135 | Sunday 21 May 2017

Life Groups Study Questions

1. How would you explain the difference between praise and thanksgiving? What reasons might someone be worthy of praise?

This question seeks draw out people's understanding of what praise is.

2. Psalm 135 starts and finishes with a call to praise (verses 1-3 & 19-21). Who is being called to praise the Lord?

It starts out focussing on those who minister/serve in the temple (priests and Levites), but by the end, in verse 20, everyone who fears the Lord is called to praise.

3. Why are they being called to praise the Lord? Make a list of the attributes and actions of the Lord (verses 3-18).

In short: verse 5 – Because the Lord is Great.

His greatness is displayed all through this Psalm:

4 – He elects Israel

5-7 – He reigns over creation

8-12 – He redeems Israel and blesses them

13-14 – His reputation endures forever

15-18 – His greatness is contrasted with idols

4. Reflecting on your own life, what reasons do you have to praise the Lord? Make your own list of why God is worthy of your praise.

How will you praise the Lord this week?

Start with the Gospel and work out.

Think of some practical ways we can praise the Lord in our everyday lives.

5. In verse 3 the psalmist says, “sing praise to [the Lord’s] name, for that is pleasant.” Do you agree that praising the Lord is “pleasant”? Do you experience this when you praise God?

The implication is that even when we focus on the Lord and praise him, we benefit personally from that activity.