

Songs for the Climb Concluded - The Songs of Ascent

Psalms 133 & 134 | Sunday 7 May 2017

~ LEADER'S GUIDE ~

1. This question is looking to stir up some discussion on the theme of praise. You may want to draw out the reasons for people's responses as well.
2. The main concern of Psalm 133 appears to be the value and importance of unity among God's people.
The main concern of Psalm 134 appears to be urging God's people to bless the LORD.
3. Psalm 133: Unity among God's people is like precious oil poured over the high priest probably because this represents the beauty and joy of the anointing of the high priest which is symbolic of the gift of God's Spirit on the servant of God's people; and like the dew of Mt Hermon on Mt Zion (Jerusalem) probably because this is life-giving and refreshing - Hermon is snow-capped but Zion is dry.
4. Psalm 134: The pilgrims have arrived at their goal - the temple of the LORD on Mount Zion. The temple is where the presence of the LORD is - in the Holy of Holies - so it is most fitting that the priests bless the LORD in his presence.
5. Psalm 133: Attitudes such as valuing unity for the sake of God's name and the sake of God's people. Attitudes such as love, grace, and mercy are surely also important. Actions such as forgiving, correcting, encouraging, studying God's word together, and praying together foster unity.

Psalm 134: Different ways we can praise the LORD in our daily lives include praying, singing, preaching, sharing the gospel, sharing our testimony, and telling others about the LORD. Some of the benefits of praising the LORD are re-orientating our thoughts and lives, honouring the LORD, as well as informing others of the greatness of the LORD and of what he has done.

