

# **PRAYER CHANGES THINGS**

*September 18-24, 2019*

## **Day One:** Devotional

1. Pray. This week is all about prayer, especially exaltation prayer. Spend some time praising God for who He is. It might be helpful to write out some attributes of God that are particularly meaningful to you.

2. Read: Philippians 4:4-9 a few times.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

3. Verse 8 lists things to set your mind upon. What do you think those things mean?

True:

Noble:

Right:

Pure:

Lovely:

Admirable:

Excellent:

Praiseworthy:

4. Present your requests to God. Whatever is on your heart, wherever you need peace that transcends understanding, lay them at the feet of your Savior.

5. Rejoice. Rejoice because God is in control. Rejoice always because God's peace can transcend our understanding. Maybe listen to your favorite praise song. Whatever you need to do today, rejoice.

**Day Two:** Observations & Color Code

**Psalm 33:1-4** Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

**Observations:**

**Psalm 72:18-19** Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

**Observations:**

**Psalm 106:1-3** Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare his praise? Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.

**Observations:**

**Psalm 135:3-5** Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant. For the Lord has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession. I know that the Lord is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods.

**Observations:**

**Psalm 146:1-2** Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

**Observations:**

**Day Three:** Method: Thematic Study

1. Choose your theme: When doing a thematic study of the Bible, the first task is to choose your theme. For the purpose of this study today, we are going to be focusing on **praise**.
2. List all verses: The second step to doing a thematic study is to list the references you plan to focus on. To find these references, you can use either a study Bible or an exhaustive concordance. You can also look at pages 6-8 for some resource ideas. Using a Study Bible, you can go to the Concordance in the back and look for all references to the word **praise**. For our study, we are going to stick with only references found in the Psalms. Below are some verses to consider. Try to add at least three more.

**Psalm 33:1-4** Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

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3. Decide upon questions you will ask. What are some things you would like to know about the theme of praise? List out questions below that you will ask of each reference. Try to come up with at least 5 questions. Start with these pronouns to get you started: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

- Why does the Psalmist praise God?
- What actions or attitudes usually accompany praise?
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#### **Day Four:** Thematic Study Continued

4. Ask questions of your passages. Using the questions listed above, go through each reference and ask those questions, taking notes on any answers you find. Refer back to the observations you made on day two as well.

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**Three more:**

5. Draw Conclusions: Take and organize all your answers and make some conclusions. These would be great to share with your group!

**Day Five:** Application

1. Taking what you have done over the past few days, write out a prayer of praise. You might want to include some parts of the Psalms you studied or you might want to write your own words. Write this prayer down on an index card that you can stick somewhere you will see it each day. Pray this prayer each day, praising God for all that He is and all He has done.