

Lesson 1

Why is it sometimes hard to praise God?

Although God deserves our praise, it is difficult to praise Him at times. When we experience tough times in our lives, we might struggle to give praises to God. The type of situations that can damper our praises can be the death of a loved one, sickness, financial problems, family conflicts, and so much more. Although these circumstances do not change the fact that God is good, they can distract us from thinking of His goodness. Problems have a way of taking all of our attention. If we dwell on our problems, it can become nearly impossible to praise God. So if when you find it hard to praise God, take a moment to refocus your attention to who God is. Praise Him for His creative power.

Lesson 2

What part of creation praises the Lord?

All of creation praises the Lord! The heavens and the earth praise God—not just humans. Humans are a special part of creation. Of all of the creatures, we are the most intelligent and we have the ability to use our imagination and intellect to create things. However, our praise is not the only praise that God appreciates. The angels in heaven give God praise, and all of creation on earth praises God—the trees, animals, and the seas. No one and nothing is excluded from praising God.

Lesson 3

Why did David praise God?

David had many reasons to praise God. He survived attacks from a lion and a bear. He became the most favored servant of the king. He defeated Goliath, and he eventually became king, himself. These were David's personal reasons for praising God, though in Psalm 65 he offered more common reasons—reasons that everyone has. First, David mentioned that God hears prayers. It is wonderful to know that no matter the time, the place or the volume of our voices that God hears us when we call on Him. Then, David listed the many ways that God provides abundance for the earth. God supplies water—which all of life on earth needs in order to survive, and the earth is filled with animals and lush vegetation.

Lesson 4

Why is God great?

Psalm 104 portrays God as King and Lord over all of the earth. God sits on His throne in heaven watching over His creation. If His creation is great, God the Creator is greater. The waters of the earth are great and wide and contain too many creatures to number. God's wisdom made creation possible and sustains it, too. There are so many details to the systems that keep our world going. God is all-knowing and brilliant and no one compares to Him.

Lesson 5

When does accepting praise become pride?

It is perfect acceptable to receive praise for one's accomplishments and good deeds. Receiving praise boosts confidence and motivates the continuation of doing good, too. However, no matter much we enjoy receiving praise from others, we have to remember to redirect that praise to God. When we do not acknowledge that God is the ultimate Source of our gifts and talents, then accepting praise becomes pride.

Lesson 6

How do you become a child of God?

We become children of God through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, and He was with God in the beginning. When Jesus came to earth and sacrificed His life for us, we were adopted by God to be His children. We also became joint-heirs with Christ. An heir is the recipient of an inheritance, so we inherit the same position and righteousness that Christ has from the Father.

Lesson 7

What things can easily become idols?

Anything that is not God can become an idol. In ancient times, people worshiped the sun, moon, stars, water, and wind; some do this today. People created statues and figurines that they thought had power, could hear prayers, and could bring good fortune to them. People worship idols today. People obsess over and worship money, jobs, celebrities, cars, and clothes. On the surface level there is nothing wrong with these things, but when a person spends most of their time, energy, focus, and money on material things, then they become idols.

Lesson 8

Does being free mean you don't have to obey laws? Why or why not?

Being free does not mean that you can do whatever you want. For example, you should not say harsh things to your loved ones to hurt their feelings, because you can. With freedom comes responsibility and everyone has to be responsible for their own actions. If there is something that you do not want to face the consequences from, then you probably should not do it. To put the answer more simply, being free is not about following a long list of laws. Love fulfills all the laws. So if you act in a way that is loving, you are using your freedom responsibly.

Lesson 9

How can we carry each other's burdens?

We all must fulfill our own responsibilities; however, there are times when our obligations become too burdensome for us to carry alone. There will be times when we will need help from others and times when we will need to assist others. When we see someone who is overloaded or having a moment of weakness, we should step in to help where we can. Sometimes, people might just need a listening ear, so they can vent their frustrations. Other times, they might need physical or tangible help. For example, you might help them by giving them money, cooking for them, or giving them clothes.

Lesson 10

Why does God love His creation?

He loves creation because He made it. Just like an inventor who is proud of his or her invention, God gets satisfaction from the presence of His creation. God loves all of creation—the sun, moons, and stars, rocks, plants, and water, the birds, lizards, foxes, fish and all of the other animals. God shows His love for creation by allowing it to continue to exist and flourish, and by providing for all of creation. Another reason why God loves creation is because God is love. Love is God's very nature and God cannot help but love. God would not be God if He did not love. So God's love for creation is as everlasting and enduring as God is.

Lesson 11

Why would Jesus take our place?

Jesus was willing to take our place of punishment because of the Father's love for us. Jesus came down to earth to live the human experience and died in order to reconcile humanity back to God. He was the only one who could. He was the perfect sacrifice. Jesus also knew that if He sacrificed His life, the Father would be able to raise Him from the dead.

Lesson 12

What is the analogy of the vine?

Jesus is the vine and God is the vine grower. Believers are the branches that grow from the vine. The vine is the source of nutrients that the branches need in order to grow and produce fruit. Without being connected to the vine, the branches wither and die. Similarly, Jesus is the source of eternal life for believers. Without Jesus, believers would be lost for eternity. God is the vine grower. He takes care of the vine and its branches, ensuring that fruit grows on the branches. When branches do not produce fruit and prevents growth, He takes them away.

Lesson 13

Why should we repent?

Repentance is the acknowledgement and sincere remorse when you have done something wrong. When you have done something wrong, repentance is the appropriate response. In addition to asking the forgiveness of those who we have wronged, we should also ask for forgiveness from God. God is grieved when we treat others badly or when we don't show respect for ourselves. So when we repent, we also create the opportunity for mercy to be given to us.