

PRACTICING PRAISE

PSALM 95:1-11

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – AUGUST 23, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 95:1-11 ESV

REACH ONE

Getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.

As we continue growing in the habit of intentionally going out of our way to see people, carve out some discussion time to let group members share how they took a step towards others during the past week. It doesn't matter if it's small (learning their barista's name) or big (getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating little wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

How do you feel about the percentage of your week that you spend praising God?

SERMON RECAP

- Psalm 95 is about the praise that you can practice wherever life finds you:
 - Praise is to affirm and declare the greatness of God – Praise the Lord because you need to praise Him!
 - Praise is both response to the goodness of God and a revolt against lies about God – Praise the Lord because your neighbor needs it!
 - Our praise is an invitation for other people to see the greatness of God – Praise the Lord because your future needs it!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read Psalm 95:1-11 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passages or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What are we commanded to do in verses 1 and 2?
 - Who is God and who are we according to verses 3-7?
 - What keeps us from praising God rightly according to verses 8-11?
 - How would you summarize Psalm 95 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Calling to God (Psalm 95:1-2)
 - What does it mean to make a joyful noise to the Lord?
 - How should we come into the Lord's presence?
 - How does "God's goodness" drive us to praise Him?
 - Why is God worthy of our praise even though He doesn't need it?

2. Recognizing God (Psalm 95:3-7)

- How is God better than anything else we might worship (verses 3-5)?
- How does our praise affirm God's goodness and refute lies about Him?
- How does praise counter our human tendency toward entitlement?
- Why is God worthy of the praise of His people individually and corporately?

3. Fearing God (Psalm 95:8-11)

- What does it mean to fear the Lord?
- How does reverence for the Lord protect us?
- How did God respond when Israel tested Him in Exodus 17 and why?
- Why is God worthy of our praise even when things aren't going well?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Praise the Lord because you need to praise Him!

- What goodness do you find in your life?
- How often do you praise the Lord in a given day?
- How could you build praise more fully into your daily life?
- What steps could you take this week to deepen and enrich your praise of God?

2. Praise the Lord because your neighbor needs it!

- What can you identify that you worship in your life that is not God (money, power, fame, self, etc.)?
- How could you see God more in the everyday things and moments of life?
- How is your praise of God evident to believers and nonbelievers who are around you?
- How can your public praise of the Lord be contagious to others?

3. Praise the Lord because your future needs it!

- What is this season teaching you to believe about God?
- What lie about God is your season tempting you to believe, and what is true about Him instead?
- To whom is God calling you to declare his goodness this week?
- Where might your heart be hardened or hardening (see Hebrews 3:12), and what steps could you take this week to confess, repent, and return to the Lord and His goodness?