

Lesson 12

Hallelujah!! (Psalms 146-150)

1. How can you determine whether praise is true praise or merely entertainment? How do these “hallelujah” psalms differ from the others you’ve studied so far? What makes them such great examples of praise? What can we learn from them as we attempt to praise God in our churches?
More to Consider: Read Ephesians 5:25; John 3:16; Deuteronomy 4:37; and Romans 5:8. How does each of these verses reveal who the Lord loves (Ps. 146:7–8)?
2. Choose one verse or phrase from Psalms 146—150 that stands out to you. This could be something you’re intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Write that here.
3. What are some of the reasons the people should praise the Lord, according to Psalm 147? In what ways does this psalm illustrate God’s active work among His people? Circle or underline God’s actions described in Psalm 147.
4. What does Psalm 148 teach us about the scope of our praise? How does the church today express this diversity of praise? Why is it important to understand the breadth of our praise? **More to Consider: Review Psalm 148:7–13. How does nature express its praise?**
5. How does reading Psalm 148 with Jesus in mind change your understanding of the psalm? What does it reveal about Jesus? How is this an example of the richness of God’s Word?

6. In what ways is praise an “honor” (Ps. 149:5)? Why does this matter? In what ways can praise be a weapon (vv. 6–9)? Is this evident today? Explain.
7. In what ways is Psalm 150 a particularly fitting psalm to end the book of Psalms? What does the final verse (v. 6) tell us about the God who is worthy of praise? About His plan for His creation?
8. **An informal survey of churches in your community will quickly illustrate the diversity that is evident in the praise and worship time. While some churches are content with piano or organ accompaniment for hymns or worship songs, others march out a full rock band and vocalists to lead their rousing worship time. Some worship services are mostly pensive or reflective, while others are loud and energy driven.** What does the diversity of praise and worship from church to church say about our churches? About our understanding of praise? When does a worship time become entertainment instead of worship? What are practical steps that can be taken to avoid turning the worship time into a concert that denies the congregants’ participation?
9. What are examples from your church experience that illustrate the dangers of making worship about the worshipper instead of about the Creator? How can a worship leader help direct the members’ attention on the Lord instead of the singers or band onstage?
10. What is unique about the way the “hallelujah” psalms portray God? Is there anything comparable to praise in the secular world? Why or why not? What makes praise such an important part of our relationship with God? How does it help us to know God? How does it keep us humble?
11. Describe a great time of praise you’ve experienced. What made it so special? How important was the state of your heart when you went into that time of worship? What are some practical things you can do to prepare your heart for praise and worship?

12. Is it easy for you to praise God? Why or why not? What are the obstacles that make it difficult sometimes? What setting makes it easiest for you to praise God?
13. Make a list of the things you want to praise God for today. Why do these particular things come to mind? How might that list have been different a month ago? How might it be different a month from now? What does this tell you about the relationship between praise and circumstance?
14. Think of one or two things that you have learned that you'd like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It's better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don't try). **Do you need to learn how to praise God in all circumstances? Do you want to explore new ways to praise? Be specific. Go back through Psalms 146—150 and put a star next to the phrase or verse that is most encouraging to you.**
15. Write a prayer below (or simply pray one in silence), inviting God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you've previously noted. Be honest about your desires and fears.