

Lesson 7

Magnifying the King (Psalms 93;95-100)

1. How might Psalm 93 have encouraged the Israelites? What does this psalm tell us about God's character? Why was this important for the Israelites during their season of challenges and trials? How can this psalm uplift Christians today?
2. Choose one verse or phrase from Psalms 93; 95—100 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. Respond to the statement "The truth about what is going on in this world is not in the newspapers but in the Scriptures." How is this borne out in Psalm 93? In what ways does this psalm underscore the truth that God always keeps His word?
4. Read Psalm 95. How does this psalm express praise? In what ways does it invoke worship? What does it mean to bow down before God? What does this look like in daily living? How can our daily living be a form of worship?
5. Why have hymns lost their appeal to many churchgoers? What is it about the praise and worship time in a church that makes it so important to congregants? In what ways do the psalms give us good guidelines for praise? For worship? What are the dangers of basing your church attendance on the praise and worship time? What are the benefits?

6. What does it look like to “ascribe” glory to God? What are some of the things that likely inspired the “new song” for the psalmist? What are some of the things that inspire “new songs” today?
7. Why was it important for the psalmist in Psalm 97 to invite the whole earth to be glad? What would the “distant shores” have represented to the Israelites? What are the “distant shores” for us today? Is it always easy to accept that “the Lord reigns” when circumstances are difficult? Why or why not? How does this psalm address that challenge?
8. What is your emotional response to Psalm 98? What does the tone of this psalm tell you about the psalmist? About the Israelites’ relationship to God during this period of their history? What are the clues that this is a messianic psalm?
9. Read Psalm 99. How does this psalm portray the royalty of the Lord? Why was it important for the Israelites to see the Lord as their king? In what ways does the church today honor the Lord’s kingship?
10. In what ways is Psalm 100 a fitting climax to the collection of psalms” (93; 95—100)? What is the underlying message of this (and of all the royal psalms)? What does this psalm say to individuals about entering worship? In what ways can it help direct the corporate worship in today’s churches?
11. When have you been encouraged by a psalm or song while going through a difficult time? How can encouraging words offer help and healing? What do you learn about God through the words offered in praise and worship?
12. The psalms teach us that God always keeps His word. How has this been true in your experience? Are there circumstances where you wrestle with doubt about this truth? Explain. How can the psalms help to allay those doubts and fears?
13. What does treating God as King involve for you? What are the challenges of having a King over you? What are the benefits? What are the things in

your heart that draw you toward God as King? What are the things that move you to resist God's kingship?

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 want to learn how to worship better? Do you need to treat God as King in some way? Be specific. Go back through Psalms 93; 95—100**
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.