

LESSON 5

I CAN PRAISE GOD WITH A JOYFUL HEART

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is Worthy of Praise

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 63; 108

GOD'S BIG STORY: Throughout the Psalms, David expresses that God is worthy of praise. He models that no matter our circumstances, we can praise God with a joyful heart!

WORD OF WONDER: How God made me is amazing and wonderful. —from Psalm 139:14

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Israel's King David is attributed with writing Psalms 63 and 108, which are among the 73 psalms he is believed to have penned. Throughout the psalms, David praised God in a variety of ways—calling to God for help, bringing Him his questions, and offering Him praise.

WHAT?

David had many enemies who wanted to kill him, and he spent a good part of his life fleeing from those who wanted to take his life. Both Psalm 63 and Psalm 108 speak of how God helped and delivered David from his enemies.

WHERE?

David wrote Psalm 63 when he was in the Desert of Judah. David spent a lot of time in the Judean wilderness—as a boy when he was fleeing from Saul, the king who wanted him dead—and when he was fleeing from his own son, Absalom.

WHEN?

Because David is mentioned as the king in Psalm 63 (v. 11), it is thought that David wrote this psalm when running from his son. Absalom was attempting to take the throne from David, and David and those loyal to him had to flee (2 Samuel 15–19).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

David wrote Psalm 63 in the wilderness of Judah, likely while fleeing from his son Absalom. In that desolate place, he sought God's strength and praised Him. Centuries later, the Spirit led Jesus into the erēmos—a lonely wilderness—where, like David, He looked to the Father for sustaining strength.

Activity: Drumming for God

Leader Tip: The pencil drum works best if the drum coloring sheet is on a hard surface, such as a tabletop. If you don't have tables, and kids are on a carpeted floor, put hardcover books or clipboards under the sheets.

Ahead of time, print and cut out a Drum Sheet for each kid. When kids arrive, pass out the sheets and put crayons where kids can all reach them.

Welcome to church! I'm so glad you're all here today! We're going to talk about how, why, and when we can praise God! One way we can praise God is with singing and music. We're going to make drums we can play to praise God! First, we need to add more color the drums.



Encourage toddlers to add more color the drum in the picture. Watch for toddlers who try to eat the crayons and redirect them back to the Drum sheet. When all the kids are done coloring, give each kid two unsharpened pencils. **Now we're going to use the pencils to bang on our drum. Let's bang our drums together and make a joyful song for God!**

Allow some time for kids to play their drums.

That sounds great! I'm sure God loves hearing your praise song! Let's learn more about when, how, and why we can praise God.

Activity: What Sound Is It?

Ahead of time, print a set of the [What Sounds Is It? Pictures](#) and cue the sound effects.

Spread the pictures out on the floor, mixing up the order. Gather the kids in front of you near the pictures on the floor. **We're going to listen to some sounds. When you hear a sound, go stand by the picture of what you think makes that sound.**



Play each sound effect, waiting after each one for kids to move to the matching picture. Be ready to help if needed. The Sound Effects are:

[Water Waves](#)

[Piano](#)

[Popping Popcorn](#)

[Train Whistle](#)

[Barking Dog](#)

[Drum](#)

[Storm](#)

Roaring Lion

Cat

Donkey

What sound did you like hearing the most? Allow the kids to respond.

What do you think God likes to hear? Allow the kids to respond. **God is so amazing, and we can tell Him all the time how amazing He is! How can we tell God we think He's great?** Allow the kids to respond.

We can tell Him He's great by singing to Him, making music, or clapping our hands. He loves to hear our praise! Praise means we tell God how awesome He is!

Our Wonder Truth today is: **GOD IS WORTHY OF PRAISE.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—*Point up.*

IS WORTHY—*Put hands up over head and pump them up and down.*

OF PRAISE—*Wave hands over your head.*

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

How God made me is amazing and wonderful.

—from Psalm 139:14

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Wonderfully Made series is from Psalm 139:14. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.** Practice the verse with the kids.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **HOW GOD**—*Point up with both hands.*
- **MADE ME**—*Point to yourself with two thumbs.*
- **IS AMAZING**—*Put one arm out to your side for each word.*
- **AND WONDERFUL.**—*Burst both arms up and out to the sides at the same time.*
- **FROM PSALM 139:14**—*Hold your hands open in front of you, as if holding a book.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

Dear God, thank You that You are always there for us. You protect us and watch over us, and we want to thank You and say that You're awesome! We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God did a good work when He created every one of you. He is good, and He deserves our praise all the time. As you leave today, may you remember to celebrate God and tell him how great He is!

Activity: Musical Praise Parade

Leader Tip: If you don't have enough musical instruments, encourage kids who don't have one to clap and cheer.

Line kids up and give each one a musical instrument or a toy that makes noise. You can also make your own noisemakers by filling plastic containers with dry beans or rice and taping them closed.

We're learning about how David praised God. We can praise God any time. Praising God doesn't just mean singing or making music. Praising God means telling Him that we love Him and He's amazing. We're going to make a musical parade for God! Have any of you ever been to a parade? Allow kids to respond. Did you hear music at the parade? Allow kids to respond. I love hearing music at a parade. I think God loves hearing music that we make for Him too! David played music for God, and we can too. Let's all walk around the room in a line like they do at a parade. As we walk, we'll make music together for God and tell Him we think He's awesome!

Invite the kids to join you in a praise parade around the room.