

Study Series: When We Say Father

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 Lesson Title: “Thine Is the Glory” (pp. 144-152)

Session 12

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The main point of this lesson is: Not only does God deserve the glory of our praise, but sincere praise of Him produces benefits in our own lives.

Focus on this goal: To help adults develop a lifestyle of praising God.

Key Bible Passage: Matthew 6:13

To the Leader: Be aware that the phrase forming the basis for this study appears in the King James Version of the Bible but may be absent from some translations. The phrase appears in some ancient manuscripts of Matthew but does not appear in the oldest ones.

Before the Session

1. Conduct an Internet search of “misquoted movie lines.”
2. Prepare to share a few of the misquotes and their actual quotes. (Step 1)
3. Read and be prepared to summarize 2 Chronicles 20. (Step 6)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Relate the movie misquotes, pausing after each one to challenge the group to quote the actual line from the movie.

Analyze whether the misquotes change the meaning of the movie.

Lead the group to recite in unison the model prayer from Matthew 6:9-13.

Explain the last phrase (“For thine is the kingdom …”) is omitted or bracketed in many Bible translations because it is not found in the most reliable Greek manuscripts. However, that doesn’t mean we misquote the model prayer when we add that phrase, nor does it change its meaning. It is theologically correct and entirely appropriate to add to our prayers because God deserves the glory of our praise.

Step 2. Day 1 – The Praise of the Prayer

**Consider** how people might answer the Day One question (p. 144), *“Now what is the purpose of prayer?”*

**Ask:** *How does the last phrase of the model prayer relate the true purpose of prayer? Should that purpose give us greater or less confidence in having our prayers answered? Explain.*

**Examine** how Jesus brought prayer full circle.

**Assert** true prayer begins and ends with praise. This study examines reasons for learning to praise the Lord.

**Request** volunteers read Psalm 147:1 in several translations.

**Ask:** *Why is praising God appropriate?*

**Discuss** Day One, activity 2 (p. 145).

**Explain** the Hebrew concept of glory literally means “weight.”

**Declare:** When we praise God, we declare He is weightier and more worthy than anything else in life.

Step 3. Day 2 – Praise Heals Our Hurts, Part 1

**Declare:** Praise is not only appropriate because God deserves it, but because developing a lifestyle of praise produces great benefits in our lives. Praise can heal our hurts.

**Invite** a volunteer to read Psalm 147:2-3.

**Invite** volunteers to share responses to Day Two, activity 1 (p. 146).

**Note** praise restores us to our real purpose in life, which is to glorify God, and it ushers us into the presence of God.

**Read** Psalm 16:11.

**Evaluate** how we can praise God with our bodies, souls, and spirits.

**Ask:** *Do you think praise can even heal hurting bodies? Explain.*

Step 4. Day 3 – Praise Heals Our Hurts, Part 2

**Explore** whether we can harm people who are hurting physically and emotionally if we declare all they need to do to be healed is to praise God.

**Declare:** We can praise and thank God for the gift of medicine He may use to aid in healing, while still acknowledging that many of our mental and nervous disorders would disappear if we learned to praise.

**Use** the remarks in the first paragraph of Day Three (p. 147) to **record** on a whiteboard the progression of being overly occupied with our egos, which leads to being self-centered, and so forth.

**Urge** adults to silently consider Day Three, activity 1 (p. 147).

**Discuss** the question in that activity.

**Invite** a volunteer to read Luke 9:24.

**Explore** how we lose and save our lives when we praise God.

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 2 (p. 148).

Step 5. Day 4 – Faith and Thanksgiving

**Invite** a volunteer to read Psalm 147:4-6.

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 1 (p. 149).

**Explain** Isaiah wrote to people who were surrounded by those who worshiped creation, including the stars.

**Consider** how people today worship creation.

**Analyze** how creation can compel us to worship and praise our Creator and how doing so will fortify our faith. [***OPTION:*** **Read** the lyrics to the hymn “This is My Father’s World” and **explore** how this kind of praise can fortify our faith.]

**Ask** a volunteer to read Psalm 147:7-9.

**Analyze** the difference between thanksgiving and praise. (Thanksgiving focuses on what God does. Praise focuses on who God is.)

**Consider** what our praise of God for who He is reveals about our gratitude to God for what He’s done.

Step 6. Day 5 – Praise Protects Our Peace

**Ask** a volunteer to read Psalm 147:10-14.

**Determine** what people often rely on for protection.

**Ask:** *Do those means of protection often bring or disrupt peace? Explain.*

**Discuss** Day Five, activity 1 (p. 151).

**Summarize** 2 Chronicles 20:1-19, then **read** verses 20-22.

**Discuss** the margin/pull quote in Day Five (p. 152).

**Examine** why the truth of that statement indicates how praise protects our peace.

**Invite** responses to Day Five, activity 2 (p. 152).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Ask:** *How does the Lord’s model prayer begin and end? How does Psalm 147 begin and end? So how should our days begin and end?*

**Encourage** adults to begin and end the next seven days with praising God, perhaps by reading or meditating on the psalms examined in this study.

**Invite** volunteers to voice prayers of praise as your closing prayer.

After the Session

