

The Big Question

Why does God want us to praise Him?

You've probably been told not to brag about yourself or to call attention to yourself by being goofy, loud, or obnoxious. (Fifth and sixth graders can sometimes go overboard in trying to call attention to themselves!) No one likes to hear about how great we think we are. So, why does God want us to talk and even sing about

His greatness? Isn't He being a braggart by telling us to praise His character and ways? No! God is not like a fallen human with selfish motives. God wants us to praise Him because it positively affects our lives and the lives of those who hear us praise Him. All of God's commands are for the good of His own.



God wants us to praise His character and ways because praising God strengthens our trust in Him. David wrote many songs of praise to God. In Psalm 138 he ended his praise to the Lord by asking Him not to forsake the works of His hands. Why did David follow his praise to God with a request for God? Because praising God strengthened David's faith and gave him boldness to make a request to God. Feeling fearful or unsure about life like David often did? Spend time praising God's character and ways. You will find that praising God builds your faith and moves you to make confident, bold requests to God.

Praising God also helps others learn about God. Think about your friends who don't know God, never read the Bible, and never go to church. How are they going to learn that God is holy, loving, kind, gracious, and merciful? From your praise to God. Israel was to be a light to the world. As they praised and worshiped God, the watching world could learn about the Lord. You are God's light too (Ephesians 5:8). Praise God's name so others might know and trust Him.

Amazing Facts

Rooster Calls

Roosters have a reputation for vocalizing at dawn, but they actually vocalize all hours of the day and sometimes through the night, using about 30 different calls. Each of their calls seem to be motivated by a desire to be noticed or recognized. But a rooster's loud and obnoxious sounds are simply his way of communicating with his hens. For instance, a rooster calls out to warn his hens of danger. When he lets out deep and short "oo" sounds, the hens will scan the sky and horizon for potential threats. But when the "oo" sounds are louder and stronger, the hens run for cover immediately.

Roosters also make vocalizations to gather the hens into the henhouse at night and to call them to a delightful morsel of food he wants to share.

Roosters make a lot of noise to show they value their hens. The "noise" coming from our lives ought to draw attention to God and reveal to those around us that we value, love, and appreciate Him.

Ponder Points

1. Have you heard a rooster call? What was your reaction?
2. If someone observed your life, would he or she know that you love and value God?



Learning to Praise God

Read the lesson summary and find the words in all CAPS in the word search.

W T O E P E D F W B G O
B F V W C S I N G I N G
K O Z G V T V M O K I N
L U F I T U A E B B R I
Y R O L G P D F S E A S
L T V N O I T A E R C I
P M F L B W C F R W T A
W K O S H E E P V O E R
E T W P O W E R I K Z P
M R O T S R E D N U H T
K E B P K F Z C G E B F



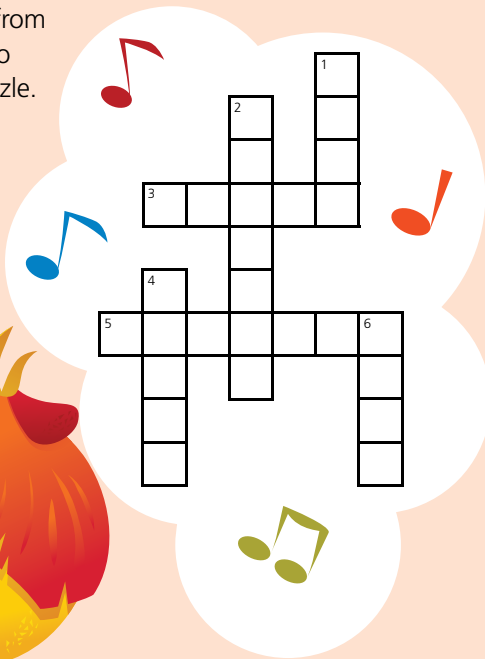
OBSERVING God's **CREATION**, such as a **BEAUTIFUL FLOWER** or a **THUNDERSTORM**, revealed God's **POWER** and **GLORY** to **DAVID**. **CARING** for **SHEEP** helped David understand God's **LOVE**. David responded by **PRAISING** and **SINGING** to God.

Key Word Crossword

Fit the key words from the word bank into the crossword puzzle.

Word Bank

MERCY
TRUTH
WORSHIP
HOLY
PRAISES
SING



ANSWER: (1) HOLY, (2) WORSHIP, (3) MERCY, (4) TRUTH, (5) PRAISES, (6) SING.

Measuring Growth

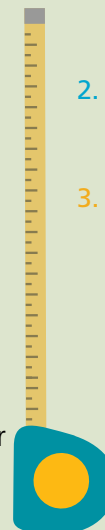


The Junior lesson for this week covered David's praise of God's glory. He said he praised God before the "gods," a reference to false gods. David never feared the false gods because they weren't real. He knew the Lord and delighted to worship Him. Your child was encouraged to praise God's glory from his or her heart. Talk with your child about the measurables.

Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child praises God from his or her heart.

1. My child praises God even when he or she isn't prompted to do so.
2. My child praises God for what He does in other people's lives.
3. My child praises God even in the face of uncertainty or adversity.



STRONG
kids