



MEETING AGENDA

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

We read about praising God all throughout Scripture. Do you have a favorite song, psalm, or praise Scripture? If praise is a new idea for you, what questions do you have about it?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Was there one idea that stood out to you from today's message on praising God through doxologies?

God is our good Shepherd, and he takes care of us, His sheep. What did you learn about this symbolic statement, and what other truths can you find in this comparison?

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. **Did you notice in Matthew 26:30 that the disciples sang a hymn before going to the Mount of Olives? Give a few of your thoughts on the doubts and fears in the group and what it meant to them to praise God at that moment. Share a time when praise helped you overcome your own doubts and fears.**
2. **Read Jude 1:24-25. David said that God protects us, among other ways, through misfortunes. Have you ever experienced a misfortune that turned out to be a blessing?**

3. In the Book of Jude, in verses 16 and 17, the author speaks of those who criticize and complain. Read Numbers 11 verse 1 and consider how quickly we humans forget the promises of God. What trouble does this cause us?
4. Read Genesis 50:20 and Isaiah 61:3. How does the reality of God using evil for good and creating beauty for ashes affect your perception of hardships and your understanding of who God is?

APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

[Hosts: don't feel pressure to cover all the questions below. Pick the one or two questions that might lead to the best conversation, but if discussion fades, include the others.]

1. Discuss how giving thoughtful, frequent praise to God can be a ready reminder of who God is and keep us from drifting into prideful self-sufficiency or lonely struggles that drag us down.
2. What happens in your mind, body, spirit, and life when you experience a great praise song, Bible doxology, or spoken prayer? How do moments of praise and honor to God change your frame of mind and behavior in the near and longer term?
3. We must intentionally spend time with and praise God, especially when life is difficult and distracting. In her weekly devotional, "Ways to Worship God Daily," Kennedy Lane writes that vital steps to do this, particularly in hard times, include starting your day with God by reading your Bible for a few minutes and meditating on God's truth rather than our circumstances. We can also do this by regularly writing down things God has done for us that we are thankful for as a reminder. What are some things you can do in all circumstances, especially during difficult times, to keep your focus and praise toward God?
4. Is there a practice that you do that helps you reflect on God's faithfulness and praise Him in your daily life?

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Father God, in a world that often makes human accomplishments, abilities, and well-being the highest goals, remind us through praise to You that true power, greatness, and authority are from You and are meant to bring the fulfillment of your Kingdom. Remind us of the doxologies in your Word, and place a new song in our hearts when we need it the most. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.*