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## MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

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Lesson Scripture: Psalm 100

Focus Scripture: Psalm 100

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*Key Verse: "Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Psalm 100:3 (NRSV)*

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### PSALM 100 (NRSV)

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

### PSALM 100 (KJV)

- 1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
- 3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.



**KEY WORD**

- **Psalms** – Called *Tehillim*, or *Songs of Praise* in Hebrew; the book of Psalms is a compilation of ancient Israel's devotional materials. Also known as biblical poetry, Psalms is a denotation for poetic praise and worship songs that have been set to music or string instruments. Psalms were widely used in temple or synagogue worship.

compilation provides special language and many ways to approach almighty God. The Psalms also include varieties of words for expressing our love, joy, peace, sadness, anger, frustration, and every emotion common to humankind. Even doubts, unforgiveness, and loneliness are expressions in the book of Psalm. Psalm 100, however, is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving.

**INTRODUCTION**

How do you praise God? Do you follow a certain pattern? Do you vary in the time and methods you devote to praising God? Are there times when you just praise without considering time or method? Today's subject commands us to "Make a Joyful Noise." What does it mean to you, personally?

Psalm 100 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm, located in the fourth division of the book of Psalms. The Psalter or book of Psalms is comprised of 150 Psalms that were written over a long span of time by different authors. The

**TELLING THE BIBLE STORY**

Psalms 95-100 are songs that focus on Yahweh's supreme rulership. Although Yahweh granted Israel's desire for a king "like other nations," God's supremacy and kingship were never to be undermined or questioned. The author of Psalm 100 is unknown. However, the psalm's laser-like focus on how to praise God is a superb

teaching tool for believers. With just a smidgen of imagination, we can envision ourselves exuberantly marching in step as the psalmist leads us into the sanctuary to praise almighty God!

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**Be Ready to Worship (Psalm 100:1-3)**

The overall theme of Psalm 100 is based upon an invitation for believers to be joyful about entering into the presence of God. Sincere reverence for God is a prerequisite (v. 1). The Psalmist calls on believers to focus on the need to acknowledge our sovereign God, reflect on who he is, be humble, and worship him. From this kind of focus, joyfulness and gladness commanded by the Psalmist flows naturally.

“Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture” (v. 3). Let’s situate ourselves in God’s holy realm. Remember that Yahweh is our creator, and not we ourselves. He sustains us and provides for us as a “good shepherd” does for his sheep. He applies healing balms to our physical and spiritual wounds, delivers us from the threats and pains of life, protects us whether we deserve it or not, saves our souls, provides

everything we need, and never leaves us. Praise him!

**Let Your Readiness be Reflected (Psalm 100:4-5)**

Attitude adjustments need to have been taken care of. The focus during worship is neither to be on us nor humankind at all. God alone is to be worshipped. Only God is worthy! The

Psalmist doesn’t condone “going through the motions,” or worshipping on a particular day or time. What the psalmist promotes are attitudes filled with gratitude and thanksgiving. Attitudes are reflected in behavior! God sees us and knows when we

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are sincere in our worship. This (vs. 4-5) is a message with no reasons for questioning or modifying its relevance. “For the Lord is good and his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness continues to all generations” (v. 5).

**SANKOFA**



Psalms and praise songs, in particular, are deeply embedded in the fabric of our church's worship practices. From its inception, our Zion has encouraged disciples to see praise, not as an occasional worship practice or method, but as a way of life. This life is manifested in disciples who worship God daily and strive to live lives focused on trusting, obeying, and glorifying him. Why should we? There are too many reasons to enumerate them all. In addition to previously noted reasons, let's consider a few more. One critical reason is the fact that we serve a God who neither slumbers nor sleeps (Ps. 121:4), and God's care for us is never-ending. His mercies endure forever (Ps. 136), and despite our sinfulness and failures, he grants new mercies every morning (Lam. 3:22). Also, he is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Ps. 46:1). Praise provokes more praise and greater appreciation for almighty God...less fear and more power for Godly living.

Our church provides innumerable

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tools to aid us in living lives filled with praise. However, tendencies to routinize worship can lead to unawareness of the treasures at our fingertips. For example, "Orders of Service," outlined in *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, are like diamonds, waiting to be discovered and enjoyed. Likewise, our church's *Hymnal* is filled with treasured supports for enjoying the presence of God through music and songs. In response to the pandemic, downloadable music files that include organ and piano accompaniments are accessible electronically (<https://ameced.com/free-resources>). Ministries throughout our church's organizational structure lend special support in this regard. The goal here is not to provide a complete list of resources, but to provide enough to encourage looking historically as well as currently at the wealth of praise and worship resources that have been and are currently easily accessed. The need to praise God did not end with the



psalmist in Psalm 100.

### CASE STUDY

Of course, true praise and worship are neither contingent nor confined to any one denomination. "Every Praise," by Pastor Hezekiah Walker, is a contemporary praise song that stimulates energetic responses. Like Psalm 100, it engages worshippers! They stand, dance, tap their feet, clap hands, smile, and so forth as they praise God in their own personal ways and styles. Even young children are drawn to this kind of praise song. Consider the following lyrics and reflect on your personal response:

Every praise is to our  
God

Every word of worship  
with one accord

Every praise, every  
praise is to our God

Sing hallelujah to our God

Glory hallelujah is due our God

Every praise every praise is to our God.

Of course, you don't have to be in

a sanctuary or surrounded by a lot of people to praise this way. Corporate worship adds much to our spirituality, but daily habits form the foundations for our growth and maturity. This and other songs can be strong supports for closer walks with God.

### LIFE APPLICATION

The psalmist is leading worshippers into the sanctuary for corporate worship.

But our worship should not be limited to corporate settings. The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is replete with calls to worship; it is mandated by God. In Exodus 20:5, God declares himself to be "a jealous God," and in Exodus 20:20 is the following commandment: "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." Like

the psalmist, however, we should never view worship as a "chore or laborious process" that we have to fit into busy schedules. The scriptures also tell us that "God inhabits the praises of his people" (Psalm 22:3). So, worship and praise, among many personal benefits, draws us closer to God, helps us refocus and center our lives, helps us experience

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rejuvenated spirits, and helps us develop strength for the journeys ahead of us as well as to become more loyal, faithful, and powerful servants.

Petitioning God is not necessarily worship. If our time with God is filled with petitions or requests for blessings, we are most likely focusing on ourselves and what we perceive to be deficits in our lives. This self-focus can lead to separation from God and diminished faith because worship of this nature is indicative of beliefs that our happiness and joy are contingent upon receipt of whatever we are requesting.

God is not a genie! Neither is he our servant. He is our God. He is supreme ruler over all kingdoms and nations. He judges; but, he also redeems, and because of his love and blessings through Jesus Christ, we have salvation and eternal life.

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### QUESTIONS:

1. How will you use this lesson for personal growth?
2. What do you think of the promise that "God inhabits the praises of his people"?
3. How would you explain the value of hymns to others, who believe only contemporary songs and music are relevant to today's worshippers?

### CLOSING DEVOTION

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, we thank you for the example presented by the Psalmist in today's scriptures. Like King David, in last week's scriptures, the psalmist helped us gain clearer insights into what true praise is and the unlimited ways to express our gratitude for you. In Jesus' name, please bless us to be "doers" of this word. Amen.



**HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**October 4–October 10**

<b>Monday</b>	Ecclesiastes 3:16-22 (Where Is Justice?)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalm 7:8-17 (A Prayer for Justice)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Amos 5:21-25 (Let Justice Roll Down)
<b>Thursday</b>	Matthew 12:14-21 (God's Servant Proclaims Justice)
<b>Friday</b>	Psalm 9:13-20 (God Has Executed Judgment)
<b>Saturday</b>	Luke 4:14-21 (Jesus Pronounces Release and Recovery)
<b>Sunday</b>	Psalm 9:1-12 (God Judges with Righteousness)