

THE POWER OF PRAISE

A FAMILY DEVOTION

(Sunday – 5 April 2020)

Call your family together for a Family Devotion every Sunday Morning at 9am during the 21 days lockdown. (The time you would have gone to church) Set 60-90 minutes aside for Praise and Worship, Word Reading and Study and Prayer. Encourage the involvement of every family member. The outline below will assist you. **Marius Gradwell**

PRAISE IS INNER HEALTH MADE AUDIBLE. (C.S. LEWIS)

For those with a healthy spiritual life, praise is natural. It easily flows from the heart of one who has a relationship with God. For others, those being religious and pretending, or those with a lack of understanding, or being afraid, or full of pride, inhibit the spirit-man from thriving in spiritual health - causing praise to be silenced.

We are going to study two Biblical stories this morning to help us unlock the power of praise in our lives.

The Story of Jehoshaphat (Read: 2 Chronicles 20:1-30)

2 Chronicles 20:21-22: *And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: 'Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever,' Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.*

Praise is powerful! Praise breaks the strongholds of the enemy. God was able to move on His people's behalf to defeat their enemies because they put their faith and trust in Him through praise! God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He will show Himself strong on our behalf just as powerfully today when we praise Him and even more so now because we have a covenant through Jesus.

When we are in a difficult situation, we can praise Him because He is faithful! We can praise Him because His mercy endures forever! After we pray faith-filled and Holy-Spirit-led prayers over our situation, we can praise and thank Him that He is going to take what the devil intended for our harm and turn it around for our good and His glory (see Romans 8:28).

Through praise we put our trust in God not man.

Just as King Jehoshaphat recognized that the only hope for Israel was to rely on the Lord God of Heaven's Armies, we too must humble ourselves before Him and quit believing we can fight any battle on our own.

We must understand that praise precedes the victory and declare to Him, "It is only by Your power, oh Sovereign Lord, that we can push back our enemies. It is only in Your Name that we can trample our foes."

Application:

If we examine King Jehoshaphat's response, we will find five simple steps that we can follow today to claim victory over our dark enemies. At the root of each step is a thankful heart fully submitted

to and dependent upon God. See if you can find the verses that confirm these five simple steps that help us put our trust in God?

1. Declare who God is...
2. Remember what God has done...
3. Remember God's promises...
4. In humility ask for help...
5. Praise God...

Questions for the young ones:

1. What is the hardest thing you have ever had to do? (E.g. Learn to read, Math, Play an instrument)
2. How did you get through it? Who helped you?
3. What do you do when you are in trouble or when someone makes fun of you?
4. How can we as your parents help you with a difficulty in your life?

The Story of Paul and Silas (Read: Acts 16:16-34)

Acts 16:25-26: *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors opened, and everyone's chains were loosed.*

At this point of great trial and affliction, Paul and Silas chose to respond through prayer and praise! It isn't that God needs our praise at times of trial and despair in our life. We need to praise Him in order to get our mind off our circumstances and on God's ability to show up on our behalf. When Paul and Silas did this, they were not only loosed from their chains and jail cell, but all the prisoners were loosed also! This shows a very important spiritual point; our praise can not only set us free from the power of darkness, but others as well.

Application: (See colouring page attached for children)

Find the applicable verses for the lessons we can learn from Paul and Silas.

1. Praise places our focus on the presence and power of God, not our circumstances...
2. The super-natural power of God is released through praise...
3. When we praise, our problem becomes an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ...

Instead of being unhappy and scared, Paul and Silas were singing and praising God. God made a bad thing turn into a good thing.

4. Describe what a bad day would look like for you.
5. How do you act if bad things happen to you?
6. What song do you want us to sing now to praise God?

Conclusion

Psalms 28:7 TPT *You are my strength and my shield from every danger. When I fully trust in you, help is on the way. I jump for joy and burst forth with ecstatic, passionate praise! I will sing songs of what you mean to me!*

Remember:

- God takes care of us wherever we are.
- God answers prayer.
- Trust (faith) in God is always rewarded.

The Story of Paul and Silas

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, while the other prisoners listened. Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the jail to its foundations. The doors opened, and the chains fell from all the prisoners.

Acts 16:25-26

