

**Introduction:**

**Hebrews 13:15** says, "Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name." In **Acts 16:25** we see an example of Paul and Silas offering up this fruit of the lips, the sacrifice of praise acknowledging the name of God. We have learned a great many things about God, getting to know Him and walking closer to Him. Every step of the way, with each lesson we should have been prompted more and more to praise God. He is great. He is awesome. He is worthy of praise. As we conclude our focus, *Walks with God*, instead of having a lesson about praising God, we will have a period of praising God, using a series of Scripture readings, songs and prayers, let us learn about praising God by doing it.

**Discussion:**

Song: *He Is In Our Midst* (HFW #22)

I. In God's presence.

- A. **Hebrews 10:19-23**
- B. **Ezekiel 1:4-28**
- C. **Isaiah 6:1-7**
- D. **Revelation 4-5**

Prayer: Praising God for allowing us in His presence

Song: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (HFW #1)

II. Encouragement to Praise

- A. **Psalms 145**
- B. **Psalms 146**
- C. **Psalms 147**
- D. **Psalms 148**

Prayer: Praising God for His magnificent character

Song: *Praise the Lord* (HFW #21)

III. Praise for God's mighty works

- A. **Psalms 47**
- B. **Psalms 106**
- C. **Psalms 111**
- D. **Psalms 135**

Prayer: Praising God for His work through history, leading to His plan of salvation

Song: *Psalms 106* (HFW #559)

IV. Praise God for His work in our lives

- A. **Psalms 30**
- B. **Psalms 63**
- C. **Psalms 90**
- D. **Isaiah 12**

Prayer: Praising God for his work in our lives

Song: *Alleluia* (Supp #54)

V. Responsive Reading of Praise

- A. In years past, a form of congregational praise which we have all but forgotten was the responsive reading. The leader of the assembly would read a passage or a series of statements that praised God and the assembly would interject a response throughout the reading. I think perhaps we have neglected this form of praise because we view it as too liturgical. However, the

scripture indicates it was a form of praise at least for our Old Testament forbears. **Psalm 136** is an example of a responsive psalm. Let us praise God together by reading this psalm responsively. I will read the first part of each verse and you, the assembly, will respond with the repetitive phrase: “for his steadfast love endures forever” (ESV).

**B. Responsive Reading—Psalm 136**

Prayer: Praising God for His lovingkindness and abiding mercy

Song: *Psalm 136* (HFW #507)

**Conclusion:**

**Psalm 117** says: “Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!” I trust we are all closer to God for the study and focus we have done this month. I pray that our walk with God, however, will not end tonight as our Focus ends. Let us remember that we have been created for the praise of God’s glory. Let us always praise the Lord; He is indeed worthy.