

Great is Our God

(Psalm 145)

Introduction

This is our last lesson in this series about the attributes of God. We've learned a lot about God, haven't we?

Tell me which of God's attributes are your favorites? [Teacher, lead the children in a review of God's attributes they have learned.]

Today we're going to focus our attention on the fact that God is **great**.

Have you ever been bummed out? Have you ever felt lonely or scared? Have you ever had your feelings hurt and you just felt crushed in your spirit? What did you do? Where did you turn?

David turned to God. And that's what we should do. We're going to take a peek into David's heart as we read and study through Psalm 145 and see how David handled discouragement.

Opening Prayer

Lord, You are amazing. You created the whole earth and everything in it and You keep the universe running in perfect order. And yet You still have time to think about me. Thank You that You are such an awesome God. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable. (Psalm 145:3 NKJ)

Lesson

David wrote most of the Psalms that we have in our Bible. Most of the songs David wrote are prayers of praise to God. When he would think

about all that God had done, David just couldn't help himself. He would just burst out with heartfelt praise to God.

As read the Psalms, notice the praise given to God, not only for what He does—His creation, His blessings, His forgiveness—but also for who He is—loving, just, faithful, forgiving, patient. I am so thankful that God made sure these songs of praise were written down in our Bibles so that we can enjoy them, too. When I read the Psalms, I am caught up in David's passion and enthusiasm for the Lord and that encourages me to praise God, too.

Psalm 145 is one of my favorite praise songs written by David. And in it he praises God for many of the attributes of God that we have been learning about. Let's see if we can list all the attributes of God David mentions.

One interesting thing about this song is if you could read it in the original language, you would see that each verse starts with the next letter in the alphabet. That would have been an easy way for people to memorize it.

David begins this song with a vow to praise God every day.

Psalm 145:1-2

I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever. (2) I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever.

Next David praises God for His greatness.

Psalm 145:3-7

Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness. (4) Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power. (5) I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. (6) Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness. (7) Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

David says that you can't measure God's greatness. He does wonderful and awesome works. Each generation should tell of God's

greatness to the next. He is righteous and full of glorious splendor and majesty.

David then continues with praise for the Lord's attributes.

Psalm 145:8-10

The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. (9) The LORD is good to everyone. He shows compassion on all his creation. (10) All of your works will thank you, LORD, and your faithful followers will praise you.

He is gracious, compassionate, patient, and loving!

Next, David praises God for His everlasting kingdom.

Psalm 145:11-13

They will speak of the glory of your kingdom; they will give examples of your power. (12) They will tell about your mighty deeds and about the majesty and glory of your reign. (13) For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The LORD always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does.

David praises God for His power and His mercy and grace. He rules over an everlasting kingdom and He always keeps His promises.

Next David praises God for His provision.

Psalm 145:14-16

The LORD helps the fallen and lifts those bent beneath their loads. (15) The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as they need it. (16) When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.

Sometimes our burdens seem more than we can bear, and we wonder how we can go on. If you are bending under a burden and feel that you are about to fall, turn to God for help. He is ready to lift you up and bear your burden. He is the great burden bearer.

God opens His hand and satisfies every living thing! He is our source of all our daily needs.

Next, David praises God for His righteous ways.

Psalm 145:17-20

The LORD is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness. (18) The LORD is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth. (19) He grants the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them. (20) The LORD protects all those who love him, but he destroys the wicked.

David praises God for answering the cries of those who sincerely call upon Him. God is righteous and loving in all His ways; He remains near to those who call on Him; He hears our cries and saves us.

Then, David ends this song encouraging us all to praise the Lord.

Psalm 145:21

I will praise the Lord, and may everyone on earth bless his holy name forever and ever.

Just by reading one of David's psalms we are reminded of how great and awesome God is.

And when we think about all that God has done and does for us, what could be more natural than having outbursts of heartfelt praise, just like David? When you praise God it's a way to tell Him how much you admire Him and appreciate Him, and thank Him for all that He does for you.

In what ways have you recently praised God or told others all that he has done for you?

Closing Prayer

Father, help us to be like David and praise You in all of our circumstances, even when we're bummed out. You are an awesome

and wonderful God, full of compassion and mercy. Help me to remember that You have a good plan for my life and that You only want what's best for me. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Activity Center

Write a Psalm or, using each letter of the alphabet, make a list of reasons to praise the Lord, including His attributes and His blessings.

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. In verse 1, how does David address God? (My God and King.)
2. In verse 2, how often does David say he will praise the Lord? (Every day forever.)
3. Verse 3 is the main theme of this whole psalm. What is it? (Great is the Lord!)
4. Why do you think it is important to speak the praise of the Lord to Him? To other people?
5. Verse 4, why is it so important to speak God's praise to the next generation?
6. The Old Testament contains many references that foreshadow the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus, who was yet to come. What connections do you see between each of the verses and the corresponding New Testament passage?
 - Psalm 145:5 and Matthew 17:1-2
 - Psalm 145:6a, 11 and Matthew 8:26-27

- Psalm 145:7 and Luke 19:37
- Psalm 145:14 and Luke 13:10-13
- Psalm 145:15-16 and Matthew 14:15-20

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