

Values Matter Discovery Starters

We Want to Know God

4. PRACTICE WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER

YWAM is dedicated to worship God and engage in intercessory prayer as integral aspects of daily life. We also recognize the intent of Satan to destroy the work of God and we rely upon God’s empowering presence, the Holy Spirit, to overcome his strategies in the lives of individuals and in the affairs of nations.

[1Sa 7:5](#); [2Ch 7:14](#); [Psa 84:1-8](#); [Psa 95:6-7](#); [Psa 100:1-5](#);
[Mar 11:24-25](#); [Act 1:14](#); [Eph 6:13-20](#); [1Th 5:16-19](#); [1Ti 2:1-4](#)

Value #4 – Practice Worship and Intercessory Prayer: Enter with Praise

Biblical Foundation:

*Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth!
Worship the LORD with gladness.
Come before him, singing with joy.
Acknowledge that the LORD is God!
He made us, and we are his.
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good.
His unfailing love continues forever,
and his faithfulness continues to each generation.(Psa 100:1-5)*

Discovery Starter:

In this beautiful Psalm we find seven imperatives. They are:

Verse	Strong’s	Hebrew	NLT	NIV	ESV	NASB
1	#7321	<i>ruwa’</i>	shout with joy	shout with joy	make a joyful noise	shout joyfully
2a	#5647	<i>'abad</i>	worship	worship	serve	serve
2b	#935	<i>bow’</i>	come	come	come	come
3	#3045	<i>yada'</i>	acknowledge	know	know	know

4a	#935	<i>bow'</i>	enter	enter	enter	enter
4b	#3034	<i>yadah</i>	give thanks	give thanks	give thanks	give thanks
4c	#1288	<i>barak</i>	bless	praise	bless	bless

It is important to note that the command to “come” in 2b and the one to “enter” in 4a are the same verb in the Hebrew. This helps spot a favorite literary device often used in ancient Hebrew called a chiasm. It looks like this:

- A₁ Two exhortations to praise
- B₁ An invitation to come
- C A call to know
- B₂ An invitation to come
- A₂ Two exhortations to praise

When a chiastic structure is used, the main idea of the author is communicated in the central point of the structure. What the Psalmist is telling us (ver 3) is that the key to entering into his presence with praise begins by acknowledging (embracing) these three essential truths:

- God is God
- God made us
- We are his

First we acknowledge who God is. Next we affirm what God has done: he created us. Next we embrace the implications of his creation of us: we belong to him. Therefore, we worship him secure in our relationship with him. This kind of knowledge is not an abstract concept. It is a transforming truth which enables us to worship God confident that we belong; we can praise because we are relationally secure.

Psalm 100 concludes highlighting three more truths about God (ver 5). God is to be worshiped for his goodness (*towb*), lovingkindness (*chesed*) and faithfulness (*’emuwnah*). At least one of these character attributes is mentioned in 62 different psalms. However only three Psalms mention all 3 attributes in relationship to God (100,119,143). 22 psalms mention at least two of them (21,23,25,33,36,40,52,63,69,85,86,88,89,92,98,103,106,107,109,118,136,145). There’s much on which to meditate. So, dive in order to know and worship God with all your heart!

Keep Going:

As you dive in you may want to consider the four praise verbs that begin and end the chiasm mentioned above. Even though you can find one or more of these Hebrew verbs in 81 different psalms, Psalm 100 is the only one to employ all 4 of them! Here are all the occurrences of these four praise verbs in the book of Psalms for you to reflect upon at your leisure:

- #7321 (12x in 10 psalms) – Psa 41:11; 47:1; 60:8; 65:13; 66:1; 81:1; 95:1,2; 98:4,6; 100:1; 108:9

- #5647 (8x in 8 psalms) – Psa 2:11; 18:43; 22:30; 72:11; 97:7; 100:2; 102:22; 106:36
- #3034 (67x in 44 psalms) – Psa 6:5; 7:17; 9:1; 18:49; 28:7; 30:4,9,12; 32:5; 33:2; 35:18; 42:5,11; 43:4,5; 44:8; 45:17; 49:18; 52:9; 54:6; 57:9; 67:3a,3b,5a,5b; 71:22; 75:1a,1b; 76:10; 79:13; 86:12; 88:10; 89:5; 92:1; 97:12; 99:3; 100:4; 105:1; 106:1,47; 107:1,8,15,21,31; 108:3; 109:30; 111:1; 118:1,19,21,28,29; 119:7,62; 122:4; 136:1,2,3,26; 138:1,2,4; 139:14; 140:13; 142:7; 145:10
- #1288 (75x in 43 psalms) – Psa 5:12; 10:3; 16:7; 18:46; 26:12; 28:6,9; 29:11; 31:21; 34:1; 37:22; 41:13; 45:2; 49:18; 62:4; 63:4; 65:10; 66:8,20; 67:1,6,7; 68:19,26,35; 72:15,17,18,19; 89:52; 95:6; 96:2; 100:4; 103:1,2,20,21,22a,22b; 104:1,35; 106:48; 107:38; 109:28; 112:2; 113:2; 115:12a,12b,12c,13,15,18; 118:26a,26b; 119:12; 124:6; 128:4,5; 129:8; 132:15; 134:1,2,3; 135:19a,19b,20a,20b,21; 144:1; 145:1,2,10,21; 147:13

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