

Prepare Him Room

Community Group Discussion Questions

Opening Question: *What is one song that you've always sung but didn't know the lyrics to? Or didn't know the real meaning of?*

Tell them: It can be easy to mishear a song lyric but also to misunderstand the meaning of what is written. This week we looked at Psalm 96. (read again)

*"Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord!
Praise his name!
Announce every day how he delivers!
Tell the nations about his splendor!
Tell all the nations about his amazing deeds!
For the Lord is great and certainly worthy of praise; he is more awesome than all gods. For all the gods of the nations are worthless, but the Lord made the sky. Majestic splendor emanates from him; his sanctuary is firmly established and beautiful.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the nations, ascribe to the Lord splendor and strength!
Ascribe to the Lord the splendor he deserves! Bring an offering and enter his courts!
Worship the Lord in holy attire!
Tremble before him, all the earth!
Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns! The world is established, it cannot be moved. He judges the nations fairly."
Let the sky rejoice, and the earth be happy! Let the sea and everything in it shout! Let the fields and everything in them celebrate! Then let the trees of the forest shout with joy before the Lord, for he comes! For he comes to judge the earth! He judges the world fairly, and the nations in accordance with his justice."
(Psalm 96, NET)*

Ask them: *What things do we learn about God in this Psalm? (He saves, he is glorious, marvelous, to be feared, praised, splendorous, majestic, etc.)*

Ask them: *What things are we commanded to do in this Psalm? (sing to Him, declare His glory, praise him, fear him, tell the nations, etc.)*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said that ascribing splendor is encountering and talking about it. *He said that, “Our society and technology is stripping us of the ability to reckon with the concept of God’s splendor and majesty. Ask them: What do you think of that idea?”*

Ask them: *What ways can we encounter God’s splendor?*

Ask them: *This Psalm says the sky rejoices and the sea shouts. What do you think that means? What is your experience with nature pointing you to God?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said this Psalm sounds a lot like the song, Joy to the World:

“Joy to the World; the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King! Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing.”

Tell them: Pastor Michael asked us if we’ve ever thought about how to receive a king.

Ask them: *How would we act differently if a ruler walked into the room, a king, a queen, a president?*

Tell them: The next line says, *“Let every heart prepare him room.”* Pastor Michael suggested that Joy the World is more about the Second Coming and the establishment of the New Heavens and the New Earth than the birth of Jesus. And so, *“Let every heart prepare Him room”* is about clearing our hearts of our little gods. Pastor Michael put it this way, *“We must empty our hearts of all the other little gods with whom Jesus will not share space, for we will be judged fairly by how many little gods to which we still cling.”*

Ask them: *How does that statement make you feel?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael gave us a few ways to prepare room in our hearts for Jesus?

- 1. Sing a new song. Tell them:** Pastor Michael said we need to stop singing songs to old idols. **Ask them:** *What do you think that means?*
Tell them: He said that preparing room in your heart is about replacing a weak idol or god with a strong one. **Ask them:** *What weak idols do you*

struggle with letting go of? (money and fame, followers and likes, worries and fear).

Tell them: He listed ways to know if you've been singing a new song?

Ask them: *Does anyone remember what those were?*

- a. When someone says to you, "you're different than you used to be."
- b. "Good" friends want to spend more time with you and "bad" friends lose your number.

2. Announce every day how He delivers. Tell them: This means testifying to His amazing deeds. **Ask them:** *What are some ways that we can announce that He delivers? In person, online, etc.?*

3. Worship the Lord in holy attire. Tell them: Pastor Michael said, "Don't worship God for His reckless love when you won't recklessly love your enemies or your neighbors as yourself in return." **Ask them:** *What did you think about that idea?*

4. Remember He is coming to judge fairly. Ask them: *What do you feel when you think about Him coming to judge?*

Tweetable Quotes and Thoughts to Ponder:

- There are no days off from announcing deliverance once you've been delivered from the jaws of sin and death.
- Our society and technology are stripping us of the ability to reckon with the concept of God's splendor and majesty.
- We must empty our hearts of all the other little gods with whom Jesus will not share space, for we will be judged fairly by how many little gods to which we still cling.
- There is not one millimeter of your heart that the majestic splendor of King Jesus does not proclaim, "Mine!"
- We must not worship God for His forgiveness when we are not willing to forgive others.
- Don't worship God for His reckless love when you won't recklessly love your enemies or your neighbors as yourself.