

LESSON 9:

PRAISE



AIM:

To show that Praise is our natural response to who God is and what he has done for us. That Praise is more than just singing songs, that our whole lives should be praise to God and that as Christians we should praise God whatever is going on in our lives whether good or bad.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Actual Reality CD
- Computer
- LCD Projector (depending on size of the group)
- Video of Pop concert / the Premiership with large crowd scene
- Bibles
- Flip chart, or large sheet of A3 or A2 piece of paper

VIDEO CLIP:

[Play your video of either the pop concert or the scene from the Premiership with a large crowd scene.]

QUESTIONS & BRAINSTORM:

After showing the clip ask the question, Is there a difference between what a Christian calls praise and what a football supporter does? (use the compare and contrast sheet to help the discussion.)

BRAINSTORM:

Brainstorm on the flip chart or large piece of paper, what people think praise is.

[You will probably get answers like singing, giving adoration to etc, after that read:]

BIBLE:

Read Amos 5:21-24 + Romans 12:1

CD:

[Follow these screen clicks to get to 'coming attractions']



[Then click on the T-Bone number plate on the floor and finally on the words to live is Christ].

BRAINSTORM:

What is Praise to the Christian?

[At this point you will have wanted to be at a place where you have discussed that worship is more than singing songs and seen that our whole lives should give praise to God, whether at school, home, work, out with friends, whatever we're doing]

[Mention that if all we're doing is singing songs to God and not living lives that give Praise to him then God begins to despise our songs because he wants our lives to follow as well (Amos 5)]

CD:

[Follow these screen clicks to get to 'coming attractions']



[Then click on the T-Bone number plate on the floor and finally on the words 'Keep On Praisin'].

1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us 'to give thanks in all circumstances' how can we live up to that?

Do you think God is worthy of being praised in all circumstances and if so why?

Someone once said "In times of difficulty turn away from God and you get bitter, turn to God and you get better." Who has found that to be a reality in their lives?

T-Bone talked about things like drugs numbing your pain but praise to God taking it away. Has anyone ever experienced that in their lives before?

BIBLE:

PRAISE WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES'

READ PSALM 41:

V3 + V8: Verses 3 and 8 tell us that David is quite seriously ill, it looks like he might not even recover (V8)

Verses 5 and 7 tell us that David has got himself a load of enemies who want to see his life ended.

Even David's closest friends in verse 9 have turned their back on him.

So David is seriously ill. He's got a load of people who hate him and want him dead, and even his friends have turned their back on him. He's in a pretty shocking state, it's a dreadful time.

If this was happening to you be honest, what would you feel towards God, anger, frustration, hatred?

What was David's reaction (v13)?

CD:

[Follow these screen clicks to get to 'coming attractions']



[Then click on the T-Bone number plate on the floor and finally on the words 'Reach the thugs'].

[Be sensitive to anyone that may have had personal tragedy in their own life, with losing a loved one, this may be quite an emotive subject.]

T-Bone had seen his friends killed, yet was still able to praise God, how do you think this is possible?

Who thinks they could do that?

PRAISE & WORSHIP:

[Spend some time in quiet, hand around some pens and paper, if it's dark possibly light a candle, read out psalm 139: Encourage people after a while to just begin to Praise God allow people to be themselves, encourage people to sing their praise, write or draw their praise, walk around, sit down how ever people feel comfortable. Just spend some quality time praising God].

CONCLUSION:

At the end of this section the group will hopefully know that Praise is not just about singing songs but is the whole way we live our lives in response to what God has done for us and because of what he's done for us we can praise him continuously whatever the circumstances.

LESSON 9:

COMPARE & CONTRAST



Football Fan

**Singing / chanting
football songs**

Wearing team strip

**Celebrating when
team wins**

**Despair when team
loses**

**Being devoted,
following team
Home and Away**

Christian

**Singing Praise
songs / Hymns
(Eph 5:19)**

**Fishes on the back
of cars, wearing
Christian T-shirts**

**Huge parties when
people become
Christians (Luke
15:10)**

**Having compassion
on people who are
upset (Romans
12:15)**

**Willing to die for
the cause (Matt
16:24)**