

## CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

The beginning of a New Year is an opportunity to look back over the past twelve months. We can think about all we have learned of God's activities in the world, in our nation and in our church fellowship. We can celebrate his faithfulness and what we have experienced of his love and care in our lives.

We can look forward with confidence to the year ahead, knowing that if we seek to follow in obedience and faith he will continue to teach us from his Word, lead us in our daily lives and renew our concern to share the gospel with others.

### Study 1

## A New Year Celebration

Psalm 145:1-21

INTRODUCTION

5 MINUTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

30 MINS

**AIM:** To celebrate God's faithfulness with gratitude and praise and be ready to share this joy with others.

**A**sk members if they have taken part in any New Year celebrations.

Then ask one or two people to tell what they have done to celebrate and what was the main purpose of the celebration?

As we end one year and begin another it is helpful to look back and thank God for His faithfulness. God's people in the Old Testament were often told to remember what God had done in the past as they faced new challenges ahead. Like the psalmist, we have all experienced God's activity in our lives in many different ways. Now we need to re-affirm our trust in Him and look forward to a deepening experience of His grace and provision in the year ahead.

Psalms like 145 help us to focus on God and remind us of the different aspects of His character. As we learn more about Him, we will want to celebrate His faithfulness.

### Read Psalm 145:1-7

#### **One generation to another:**

1. What is praise-worthy about God's Name (v.1-3)?
2. Why do you think we need to remember these verses as we use God's Name in:
  - a) prayer and worship
  - b) conversation in our daily lives?
3. What five different aspects of God's greatness are mentioned in verses 4-7? What are some of the different ways in which the psalmist responds to God's greatness?
4. Look at the different ways the psalmist plans to share the news of God's greatness with others. Suggest ways you can:
  - commend (v.4)
  - speak (v.5)
  - proclaim (v.6)
  - and - celebrate (v.7)
 God's greatness with others in the coming weeks.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONT.	
<p><b><u>Read Psalm 145: 8-16</u></b>  <b>The Kingdom of the Lord:</b>  5.a) What five aspects of God's character are mentioned in verses 8 - 9?  b) Ask three different people to briefly tell of a recent experience of <b>one</b> of these characteristics.</p> <p>6. Many in the world today would doubt the truth expressed in verse 9.  How can we as Christians try to explain and show this truth to people suffering loneliness, hunger, sickness or persecution etc.?</p> <p>7. What are the characteristics the Kingdom of God expressed in verses 10 -13?  What evidence does the psalmist give that God keeps His promises (v.13 -16)?</p> <p><b><u>Read Psalm 145:17- 21</u></b>  <b>The Lord is righteous:</b>  8. a) In what five ways is God's righteousness expressed (v.17-20)?  b) What 3 things are demanded of us?</p> <p>9. What is to be our response to the Lord (v.21)?</p>	<p>An understanding of the many aspects of God's character and the nature of God's Kingdom as revealed in His Word are important to our understanding of His faithfulness. This is a helpful time to evaluate what we have learned about God from our study of His Word over the past year and how that has been experienced in our daily lives. Only then can we really share with others and pass on to the next generation what we know of the goodness and greatness of the God we serve.</p> <p>God cares for the whole of His creation with a deep love and compassion and longs for our response to 'call on Him in truth' (v.18) and experience His great love and faithfulness.</p>
TEACHING SUMMARY 5 MINUTES	APPLICATION 20 MINUTES
<p><b>T</b>he psalmist has given us a wonderful hymn of praise in response to what he knows and has experienced of God. He reminds us of the greatness of God's Name, His awesome deeds, the grace and compassion of His character and the nature of His Kingdom. Does this reflect our experience of God and can we share the psalmist's response to join with all creation in worship and praise?</p>	<p><b>Sing:</b> "I will sing of the Lord's goodness, His mercy and compassion....."  or "His Name is wonderful....."</p> <p><b>PRAYER:</b>  <b>Read verses 3-7 responsively and:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Worship God as your Lord and King, whose name is worthy of praise.</li> <li>* Thank God for every experience of His grace and goodness in the life of your church and your family over the months of the past year.</li> <li>* Ask for God's help to draw near in obedience and experience more of His grace in the coming months.</li> </ul> <p>Before next week read <b>Ephesians 1:1-23</b>. What does it mean to be adopted into God's family?</p> <p><b>MEMORY VERSE:</b> Psalm 145:3 - 7</p>
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