**1. Motivate**

When have you been swept up in a moment of excitement?

* when we won the championship
* when you get a good grade on a math test

A video introduction is available. View it at

<https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_0n0m0r5c>

If you have no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download from <https://tinyurl.com/yxaknsng>

* found out we were going to Disney
* caught the biggest fish ever
* was able to sign up a really big client
* finally earned the Pink Cadillac
* found out what our Christmas bonus was
* saw snow for the first time
* he proposed – I was not expecting that

**2. Transition**

Lots of things can make us excited and thankful.

* Today we consider why we should be just as excited about God’s working in our lives.
* God deserves our worship and praise.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God’s Holiness and Great Power

Listen for

Psalm 99:1-3 (NIV) The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. 2 Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. 3 Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy.

How should the world respond to God’s holy reign?

* we should tremble
* we should acknowledge His reign
* we should be in awe
* we should realize He is the one in charge … not us
* we should be aware of His holiness

What motivated the psalm writer to write this hymn of praise?

* God’s power
* God’s authority
* God’s *holiness*
* He is awesome … He inspires awe, fear, reverence

Study the verbs. How do (or should) others respond in relation to the exalted Lord?

* the Lord reigns … submit to His rule
* people should tremble, be in awe of God
* He is exalted – He is the one in charge … again, submit to His rule
* people are called to *praise* the name and authority of God

How has God revealed His *power* in your life in ways that caused you to worship Him?

* healing
* provided a job at just the right time
* protection in dangerous situations
* changed the life of someone totally messed up
* given guidance and encouragement through His Word
* worked in the lives of our children, grandchildren
* given blessings we did not deserve – grace
* withheld punishment I did deserve – mercy

God is terribly awesome and holy, forgiving and punishing. What does that say about the casual “God-is-my-buddy” approach or the presumptuous “God-is-my-bellhop” approach we often take in worship and prayer?

* “God is my buddy” is a rather disrespectful or cheeky attitude to take
* neither should we pray as if we were posting our “wish list” on Amazon
* remember that Moses could not enter the Tabernacle because of the (somehow tangible) presence of the glory of God
* maybe we need that kind of sensitivity to God’s presence and power

Note the possible meanings of “holy.”

* Current dictionary definition: *dedicated or consecrated to God or a religious purpose; sacred*
* Biblical meaning: *to be distinct, separate, in a class by oneself*
	+ This means that the one who is holy is *uniquely holy, with no rivals or competition*.
	+ God is so far above and beyond us that He seems almost totally foreign to us. To be holy is *to be ‘other,’ to be different in a special way*

This psalm invites us to tremble, praise, exalt and worship this holy (unique and distinct) Lord. What are some ways to practice those attitudes each day?

* sing God’s praises
* listen to praise music (in contrast to popular, secular music)
* by your obedience and submission to His will
* by telling others
* by conversation that is filled with positive things (instead of negative or coarse talk)
* by what you choose to see, hear
* by your choice of entertainment
* by daily meditation, consideration of God’s greatness, power, authority, love

3.2 God’s Righteousness and Justice

Listen for how God is a God of justice.

Psalm 99:4-5 (NIV) The King is mighty, he loves justice—you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right. 5 Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy

Although the Lord is mighty in strength and in His sovereignty can do what He chooses, what characterizes His approach to judgment?

* God loves justice/righteousness
* He loves to do the right thing
* He establishes equity, fairness

What should be the response of His people?

* exalt the Lord (promote, elevate, praise, laud, acclaim, applaud, revere)
* worship at His “footstool”

How does this psalm describe the quality of God’s reign?

* God loves justice … He loves to do what is right
* He deserves to be exalted
* to hold God in very high regard; think or speak very highly of Him
* He deserves our worship … his worth must be declared
* He is holy/separate/distinct (infinitely so) from us

How does God’s justice, fairness, or righteousness impact your daily routine?

* we are challenged to do the same
* theoretically it is the basis for our system of laws
* I know God will do the right thing … even though I might not understand how or why
* the world may not treat me fair or right, but God does
* realization that God is beyond fair – He is merciful and gracious
* what I deserve is spiritual death (separation from God) but what I receive is eternal life, eternal union with Him
* this is because Jesus took the penalty for my sins so that God’s justice (condemnation for sin) is carried out – my sentence is carried out fairly (with mercy and grace)

How can knowing God is always fair and just help you face injustice and unfair situations?

* God will make things right
* He will ultimately bring justice
* God rules over all – He is in charge
* He will accomplish justice, He will bring equity, fairness

These verses again end with “He is holy.” How do we become *convinced* that God is distinct, separate, in a class by Himself ?

* study and meditate on the attributes of God
* Consider this website, **101 Reasons to Praise God**,
* <http://average-heros.tripod.com/id17.html>
* Spend some time daily reading through this list (it may require a few typo corrections)
* Confess your failures to God
* When you become aware of what God is like, you see the contrast of your own shortcomings

3.3 God’s Answers

Listen for men who prayed on behalf of God’s people.

Psalm 99:6-9 (NIV) Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the LORD and he answered them. 7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them. 8 O LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds. 9 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

Why does the psalmist make reference to Moses, Aaron, and Samuel? For what were they commended?

* great leaders in Israel’s past
* they were revered
* they were people who demonstrated attitudes of worship, trust, obedience
* they called on His name, called on the Lord and He answered
* they kept his statutes, decrees

What assurance does this psalm offer to those who call on the Lord?

* God answers
* God communicates to us
* God forgives
* be aware that you may well reap some results of “misdeeds” and disobedience (i.e. substance abuse harms the body)
* but God does offer forgiveness and will re-establish our relationship with him

What do these verses teach us about a lifestyle of worship?

* should be part of everyday actions
* is more than just showing up Sunday morning and singing hymns
* should often fill our thoughts
* should be a background attitude that affects all our actions and attitudes

How can we tremble at God’s holiness yet still have an intimate relationship with Him?

* daily read what He says to you
* Scripture will reveal much of God’s purposes
* claim His promises
* talk to God often
* be quick to confess your failures and receive His forgiveness
* worship Him for who He is
* praise and thank Him for what He has done
* declare your trust in His power and authority and love

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Evaluate.

* Make a list of the things you focus on doing during the week and the ways you like to spend your time.
* Do an honest evaluation and determine if any of those things are objects of worship.
* Ask God to reveal your heart and lead you to make Him first in your worship.

Trust.

* If you are currently in a situation marked by injustice, consider the ways you have responded and should respond.
* Lift the matter to God in prayer and trust Him to respond. Praise Him for His love and justice.

Worship.

* Set aside a day or a half a day for extended worship—just you and God.
* Confess sin.
* Read Scripture to God as a form of worship.
* Focus on God’s character and all He has done for you.
* Let that focus lead you into worship and a closer walk with Christ.



Well, pshaw! Someone left the clues out of this crossword puzzle. But you *do* have the words. I see they are all from Psalms 99. You know, I think you can solve this anyway! Oh yes … forget about those book reports my sister is always harping about. Pshaw, I’ll make sure to fix it for you. If you need help, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxaknsng>. You can also find other wonderful Family Activities there.

Clueless Crossword

EXALT

EXALTED

FORGIVING

GREAT

HOLY

JUST

REIGN

TREMBLE

WORSHIP