

# Worship

**WORSHIP THE LORD**  
Focal Verses • PSALM 148

## Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **ACKNOWLEDGE** that creation exists primarily to praise God, not to meet our physical needs; feel **INSPIRED** by the wonders of God's creation; and **CARE** for nature in line with God's desire for us.

### In Focus

Bryce struggled with depression for years. He remembered his mom, Lottie, taking him to doctors and counselors as a child because his teachers commented that he always looked so sad. As an adult, he finally found a medication he thought worked well, but after a few years, the depression continued like a persistent dark cloud.

Bryce's pastor, Pastor Bob, suggested he take a class chronicling the life of David and the book of Psalms to deal with his depression. He had no idea how it would help, but he agreed to try it. As he read over his final paper for the class, he couldn't believe he'd been a Christian for over 30 years and missed this important truth. As he studied the life of David and the Psalms, Bryce saw David honestly running to God with every positive and negative event of his life. He praised God for His wisdom, guidance, and courage. Bryce realized he had been self-consumed, angry, and living out the wrong purpose in life.

Since the class began, Bryce got up each morning, read Scripture, prayed, and sang praises to the Lord. He often asked God to teach him how to be a true worshiper like David. His depression didn't disappear overnight, but now he had hope and a way to deal with it beyond the medication.

One co-worker commented, "Bryce, I've been working with you for five years, and I believe this is the first time I've seen you really smile."

*Do you realize your life's purpose is to worship God? What is God teaching you about how to become a true worshiper?*

## Keep in Mind

"Let them praise the name of the LORD; for he commanded,  
and they were created" (Psalm 148:5, KJV).



## Focal Verses

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**KJV** Psalm 148:1 Praise ye the LORD, Praise ye the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

3 Praise ye him, sun and moon; praise him, all ye stars of light.

4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that are above the heavens

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD; for he commanded, and they were created.

6 He hath also stablished for them forever and ever; he had made a decree which shall not pass.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps;

8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapor; stormy wind fulfilling his word.

9 Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars;

10 Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

11 Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:

12 Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children;

13 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

14 He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.

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## The People, Places, and Times

**Psalmist.** The writer of this psalm is unknown, but he definitely had a passionate heart filled with praise for God. The call is for more praise and worship, not merely an individual's expression, but a call to the entire universe. The occasion for this psalm is unknown. Some point to peacetime in King David's reign, when he had rest from all enemies and the kingdom of Israel was settled and prospering. Others point to the time during the Temple rebuilding after the Babylonian exile.

**Horn.** The horn was a symbol of power and strength in ancient times, and the horn of God's people refers to the strength of His people who praise Him.

## Background

The Apostle Paul, in the book of Philippians, spoke of the coming season when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord (Philippians 2:5–11). In the last days, this time of worship includes the involvement of all creation.

Christ's second coming and the establishment of the new heaven and new earth will be even better than the Garden of Eden, before the Fall. It's a world without disasters and political unrest, with no chance for sin to enter (Revelation 21:4). Satan no longer roams the earth, causing havoc for God's people. Death has no part in the new kingdom.

At this time, a total praise from every inch of this new creation harmoniously goes up to God without any hindrances or interference. An enormous hallelujah chorus in the heavens and earth—here every created thing—sings praise to the Lord. Everything that has life is at its emotional height, shining its brightest. The universe is once again united in harmonious faith in Jesus, who is worthy (Revelation 5:12). The victory won by the Lamb of God is the reason for this great assembly. Blessing, honor, glory, and power are His. This is the moment all of creation has waited for, and their hope is unashamed (Romans 10:11). This psalm foreshadows that day when all of creation will offer praise to God.

## At-A-Glance

1. Heavenly Worship (Psalm 148:1–6)
2. Earthly Worship (vv. 7–10)
3. Specific Worship (vv. 11–12)
4. Everyone Worship (vv. 13–14)

### In Depth

#### 1. Heavenly Worship (Psalm 148:1–6)

The author placed the theme of the psalm at the very beginning: “Praise the Lord.” The worshipping celebration starts with the heavens, the highest region of God’s creation. One of the main groups in heaven is the angelic host. Their duty is to praise God continually and be available to do His bidding. Sun, moon, stars, and all heavenly elements also join in praise to the Father. God designed them to shine and give Him glory every night and day. The clouds carry within themselves an enormous amount of water. God makes sure only a certain amount is released for humanity’s needs. This emphasizes His orderly creation.

Why universal praise to God? He spoke, and everything that exists in the world came into being at His command. The song is absolutely correct: “This is My Father’s World.” Moreover, He also sustains the world. Nothing will expire or run out; what He causes to rise up will stand forever.

#### 2. Earthly Worship (vv. 7–10)

The author petitions the sea creatures to bring forth praise. This probably referred to extinct animals from the past, and everything present in the depths of the oceans. This likewise included the sea itself, pools, waves, tides, and any other water activity. The perfect harmony of these elements points to an intelligent, perfect Creator.

The next set of elements—fire, water, hail, snow, cloud, and wind—fulfill a specific

purpose. It’s difficult to understand natural disasters resulting in major destruction of property and loss of lives. Yet, God is in control, and at those times one must trust in His plans and sovereignty. Fruit trees produce food and cedars contribute to humanity’s shelter. From within hills and mountains, mines and minerals help people survive. The provisions result in people praising God.

Both wild and tame animals and birds are supported by God; He supplies their food and drink. He also directs their course and activities, so every one of them moves in harmony, even the smallest insect and snake. He beckons them to join in with those who praise Him.

#### 3. Specific Worship (vv. 11–12)

Kings, princes, judges, and all those in authority are asked to praise God, because He puts men and women in places of government, provides them with precious gifts, and cancels enemies’ plots. God deserves acknowledgment from those in places of power.

The psalmist emphasizes the high-ranking officials and then points out ordinary men, women, and children. Youth are in their prime of life, are full of vigor and energy, and look forward to plenty of life ahead. The older generation are thankful for their full lives. Both groups offer praise and thanksgiving to God. Even from children who do not have an extensive history with God, He still calls for praise (Matthew 21:15).

#### 4. Everyone Worship (vv. 13–14)

The psalmist concludes by calling everyone and everything from everywhere to come together and praise the Lord, because He is excellent and His glory is above the earth and heavens. He’s perfect in all His dealings, good, and generous. However, if God provided nothing, just His name is worth a celebration of praise.

God specifically highlighted Israel at the end of this hymn. Some scholars believe the address to Israel is not the literal nation, but a spiritual Israel, which includes both Jew and Gentile, who looked to the coming Messiah (Romans 2:28–29). God’s children realize their punishment for sin should have been eternal damnation, but God sent Jesus as a payment. Condemnation no longer hangs over their heads. This fact alone produces a humble worship-filled heart.

### Search the Scriptures

1. In what way does nature (sun and moon, fire and hail, etc.) praise the Lord (Psalm 148:1–14)?
2. The command to praise the Lord is for all people (v. 11). Is the command to praise the Lord truly for all people on earth or exclusively those who have a relationship with Him?

### Discuss the Meaning

What would a harmonious world look like that praises God together? Is that what we are thinking about and what we truly desire when we have praise and worship in our church?

### Liberating Lesson

People become Christians for various reasons. Some want to escape hell and go to heaven. Others want benefits, such as being wealthy or having good health. Still others are hurt people seeking help for personal problems. But as you grow and mature in Christ, understand you were created to be God’s vessel of praise and ask Him how to become a daily worshiper. This should become a life priority.

### Application for Activation

Fill the pockets of your heart with praise. In the course of the day, we have waiting time, downtime, and do-nothing time. Is it possible for us to fill those pockets of time with a praise, Scripture, or song this week?

### Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

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### Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

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## Say It Correctly

Stablisheth. STA-bli-shith.  
Exalteth. ek-ZAL-tith.

## Daily Bible Readings

### DAY 85

1 Samuel 15-17

Psalms 37:5-9

### DAY 86

1 Samuel 18-20

Psalms 37:10-15

### DAY 87

1 Samuel 21-24

Psalms 37:16-19

### DAY 88

1 Samuel 25-27

Psalms 37:20-29

### DAY 89

1 Samuel 28-31

Psalms 37:30-34

### DAY 90

2 Samuel 1-3

Psalms 37:135-40

### DAY 91

2 Samuel 4-7

Psalms 38:1-8