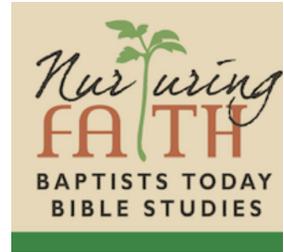


Youth Teaching Resources

November 6, 2016



A Time for Gratitude: Songs of Thankful People (November 6-27)

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21- “Justice Always Counts”

Psalm 98 – “A New Song for a Lasting Love”

Psalm 46 – “When All Else Fails”

Season of Advent (November 27-December 25)

Psalm 122- “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”

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Subscribe to *Nurturing Faith* to access the core Bible content for this lesson. Find links and videos related to this lesson.

Justice Always Counts

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

PARENT PREP

There are times when our students can't put what they are feeling or thinking into words. Sometimes this is because they haven't experienced something like this before and they don't truly know what they are feeling at the time. Other times they may not be able to put their experiences in words because they don't want to; they may be embarrassed or think that what they have done will get them in trouble. One of the things that we have to do is to help our students find the words that describe their experiences. You don't need to put words in their mouths but help them find the words that they need. A good way to do this is to share your own experiences. This way they can draw connections between what has happened to them and what they are hearing from you.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

As the students enter the meeting space, distribute paper and writing utensils to each student. When all the students have entered, explain to them that they are to create an acrostic using their name and words that describe them. An acrostic poem is a poem where the first letter of the first word for each line spells out a word. For example: Using the name "Joe", I would say "Joyous" "Overly-confident" and "Energetic". After you answer any clarifying questions, allow the students to complete their acrostics using their names. When all the students have finished, or you need to move on because of time, ask for volunteers to share their poems, and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) How was this exercise easy or difficult? Explain.
- 2) Whose poem best described themselves? Why?
- 3) What are other ways that people share about themselves?
- 4) How does your faith influence how you reveal yourself to others?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading Psalm 145:1-5;17-21. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information found in Tony's commentary to answer their questions. When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What is the stated purpose of this psalm?
- 2) How does the writer of the psalm describe God's greatness?
- 3) How do we experience God today, when God is not physically present for us?
- 4) Who does God care for? How does God care for them?
- 5) What is our response to God supposed to be?

If your group would like to dig deeper in their discussion, share some of the insights that Tony provides in the "Digging Deeper" portion of his commentary. You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) Who wrote this psalm?
- 2) How is God's love steadfast?
- 3) How is one to sincerely call on God?

You may also want your group to discuss "The Hardest Question" if they would like to continue their discussion on this passage. Tony poses the following question to consider as "The Hardest Question": What does it mean to "bless God's name"?

Transformation

Conclude your session by showing the clip "Praise the Lord" from *Gun Crazy*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability, and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) How are they showing their praise and worship to God?
- 2) How does this show their devotion to God?
- 3) Would you feel comfortable showing your devotion to God in this way?
- 4) How do you most fully worship?
- 5) When do you feel closest to God?

Close with a prayer praising God's name and the way in which God moves in your life.